Field Beauly Battery Energy Storage System

PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION REPORT

on behalf of Field Beauly Ltd

Prepared by Alpaca Communications | December 2024

Contents

1. Introduction

1.1 This Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report sets out how Field Beauly Ltd ("Field") conducted a programme of public consultation stakeholder engagement with regards to its proposal for a battery energy storage system (BESS), Field Beauly, on land to the west of the A862 and east of the River Beauly, IV4 7BE. It has been prepared in accordance with the Energy Consent's Unit's (ECU) Good Practice Guidance for Applications under Section 36 and 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 (the ECU Guidance).[1]

1.2 This document provides an overview of the consultation programme undertaken, the feedback received, and an explanation as to how that feedback led to changes to the scheme design.

Summary of Consultation

1.3 Field began consultation by outreaching to local community councils and political stakeholders on 26th May 2024. Field subsequently submitted a Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) to The Highland Council on 18th June 2024. It is noted that applications made under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 to the Energy Consents Unit (ECU) are not subject to the same statutory requirements set out within Part 2 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 (the DMP) and revisions detailed within the Town and Country Planning (Pre-Application Consultation) (Scotland) Amendments Regulations 2021 (the PAC Amendment Regulations). The Highland Council (THC) nevertheless recommends that applicants follow the TCPA PAN process for Section 36 applications, to ensure interested parties are given appropriate time and notice to input into the planning process.

1.4 Field also carried out a programme of public consultation in line with the recommendations set out in Section 3.2 of the ECU Guidance, as well as the Scottish Government's Planning Advice Note (PAN) 3/2010: community engagement.[2]

1.5 A suite of consultation material was prepared for the Proposed Development, including information brochures, a website, newspaper advertisements and information boards, all of which are presented in this document.

1.6 Two in-person public consultation events were held. The first was held at Kirkhill Community Centre, St Mary's Rd, Kirkhill, Inverness IV5 7NX from 2pm-7pm on Tuesday 28th May 2024, and the second was held at Phipps Hall, Station Road, Beauly, IV4 7EH from 2pm-7pm on Wednesday 21st August 2024.

Approach to Consultation

1.7 Alpaca Communications was appointed by Field to assist with the pre-application public consultation on the Proposed Development. Alpaca Communications is a specialist public consultation agency with broad expertise in advising on and implementing consultation programmes for both private and public-sector clients.

[1] https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/29/section/36
[2] https://www.gov.scot/publications/good-practice-guidance-applications-under-sections-36-37-electricity-act-1989/pages/3/; https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/advice-and-guidance/2010/08/pan-3-2010-community-engagement/documents/pan-3-2010-pdf/pan-3-2010-pdf/govscot%3Adocument/pan%2B3%2B2010.pdf

1.8 Field recognises the importance of early and meaningful public and stakeholder consultation to ensure stakeholder perspectives are considered from the initial stages of project planning and design. By proactively seeking feedback in the pre-application stage, Field has been able to adapt its proposal to address the concerns of, and feedback from, the local community and other relevant stakeholders where possible.

1.9 Field's programme of public consultation ensures the final planning application has been underpinned and informed by an inclusive and thorough consultation process. Field is also committed to continued engagement as the development progresses and after the planning application has been lodged.

2. Policy Guidance

2.1. Field's approach to engagement for the proposals, Field was guided by the principles provided within Section 3 of the ECU Guidance and the Scottish Government's Planning Advice Note (PAN) 3/2010: community engagement.

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2.2. In particular, in relation to the ECU Guidance, the following recommendations have been followed:

- Holding at least two public consultation events prior to submitting the application, with the final public event held at least 14 days after the first public event.
- Publishing on Field Beauly's website and in a local newspaper notice of each event at least seven days beforehand, and which contains the following:
    - a description of, and the location of, the proposed development;
    - details as to where further information may be obtained concerning the proposed development;
    - the date and place of the public event;
    - a statement explaining how, and by when, persons wishing to make comments to Field relating to the proposal may do so; and
    - a statement that comments made to Field are not representations to the Scottish Ministers and if Field submits an application there will be an opportunity to make representations on that application to the Scottish Ministers.
- Preparation of this Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report.

2.3. In accordance with PAN 3/2010, Field has adopted a positive approach to engagement which met the following key aims:

- Community engagement must be meaningful and proportionate;
- Community engagement must happen at an early stage to influence the shape of plans and proposals; and
- It is essential for people or interest groups to get involved in the preparation of development plans as this is where decisions on the strategy, for growth or protection, are made.

3. Project Overview

3.1 The Proposed Development is on land to the east of the existing Beauly Substation. The site location can be found below in Figure 1.

3.2 The Proposed Development principally comprises the construction and operation of a battery energy storage system (BESS) with a capacity of up to 100 megawatts (MW) with associated infrastructure, access and ancillary works (including landscaping and biodiversity enhancement).

3.3 The Proposed Development would charge and discharge from the electricity transmission network via the adjacent, existing Beauly substation.

3.4 Whilst the exact battery specifications are still to be determined and will be confirmed as part of the detailed design stage during pre-construction, the principal components of the Proposed Development that form the application for planning consent include:

- BESS compounds, each comprising:
    - Individual battery storage units arranged into rows / strings.
    - MV skids (one per battery string), each of which houses two power conversion system (PCS) units and one medium-voltage transformer.
    - Ancillary infrastructure including low-voltage cabinets and underground ducting and cabling.
- A high-voltage substation compound comprising:
    - High-voltage grid transformers
    - Low-voltage distribution infrastructure
    - An on-site substation building, comprising a control room, high voltage switch room and welfare facilities.
- 4 m high acoustic barriers along southern and eastern boundaries of the site compound and 3 m high palisade security fencing in areas where noise mitigation is not required.
- Cut and fill / earthworks and foundational civil structures to create level compounds upon which the batteries, substation and other ancillary structures will be located.
- Stockproof fencing around the perimeter of the site.
- CCTV and lighting columns across the battery and substation compounds.
- Drainage infrastructure, including an attenuation basin and an infiltration basin.
- Landscape and biodiversity mitigation and enhancement measures.

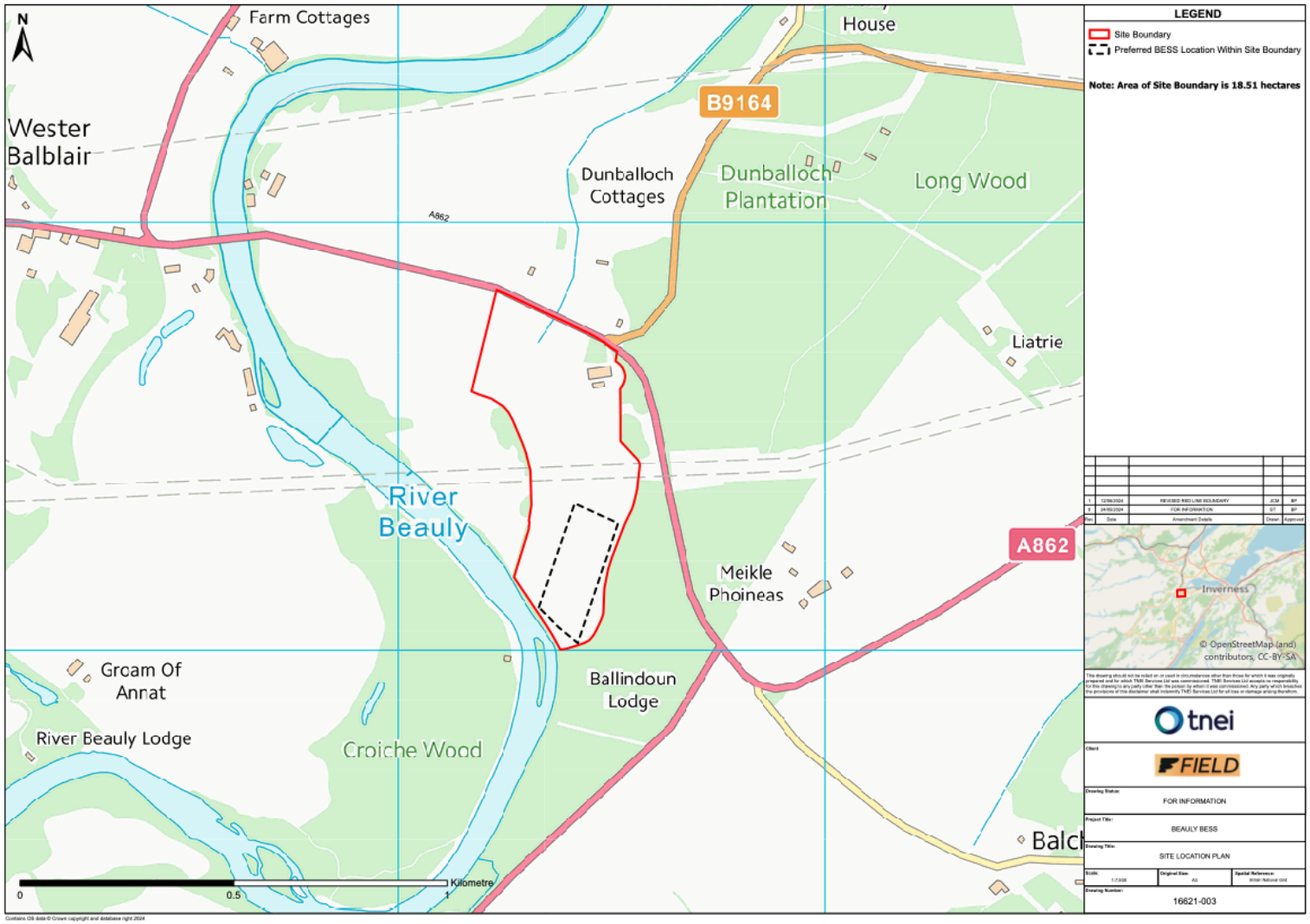


Figure 1: Site location Plan

4. Public Consultation

Consultation Aims

The aims of the consultation were as follows:

- To work with stakeholders and local residents from an early stage of the Project design to provide them the opportunity to comment on the Proposed Development;
- To raise awareness of the Proposed Development within the local community and to gain their valuable insight based on their local knowledge;
- To gain a firm understanding of the key issues and areas of concern affecting the local community and other key stakeholders;
- To work with key stakeholders to agree key topic areas and associated scopes and methodologies of assessments;
- To ensure the local community and key stakeholders had the opportunity to give feedback on the proposals;
- To provide feedback to the local community based on their comments and concerns;
- To include their feedback within the final Project design, as far as reasonably practicable; and
- To provide a robust planning application including comprehensive assessments and reporting.

Consultation Overview

4.1 Consultation on Proposed Development began in May 2024, when the development team contacted the site and neighbouring community councils (**Appendix 1**) on 24th May for a briefing regarding the proposals. Field attended a community council meeting with the neighbouring Kirkhill and Bunchrew Community Council on Tuesday 20th August.

4.2 Field submitted a PAN for the Proposed Development to The Highland Council on 18th June 2024 (**Appendix 2**).

4.3 Field engaged with the site and neighbouring community councils (CCs): Kirkhill and Bunchrew CC, Beauly CC, Kilmorack CC and Kitarlity CC with an invitation to the events, a copy of the brochure, and the offer of a meeting.

4.4 Field also engaged with the then local Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey MP Drew Hendry, as well as the Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Kate Forbes. Both were provided with a copy of the brochure, offered a briefing, and invited to the consultation event.

4.5 Alongside the community councils, local MPs and MSPs (including regional list), Field contacted site ward councillors (Aird and Loch Ness ward) on 24th May, again with a copy of the brochure, invitation to the public consultation events, and an offer of a personal briefing (**Appendix 1**).

4.6 Members of the Highland Council Leadership Team were also invited to the events, including the Leader of the Council, the Chair of the Economy and Infrastructure Committee, and the Chair of the Climate Change Committee (**Appendix 1**).

4.7 A website for the Proposed Development (**Appendix 3**) was created, which can be accessed at the following address: www.fieldbeauly.co.uk. The website includes an overview of the Proposed Development, details of consultation events, copies of all brochures and information boards that

were available at the consultation events for those that could not attend, a contact email address and feedback form.

4.8 A brochure and invite (**Appendix 4**) were sent out on 21st of May to 1,464 addresses (see **Appendix 5** for postal distribution area). The 1,464 addresses covered all addresses within a minimum of 2 km radius from the Proposed Development. The brochure invited them to the two public consultation events from 2pm-7pm on Tuesday 28th May 2024 at Kirkhill Community Centre, St Mary's Rd, Kirkhill, Inverness IV5 7NX, and Wednesday 21st August 2024 at Phipps Hall, Station Road, Beauly, IV4 7EH.

4.9 Field advertised the public consultation events in a local newspaper (**Appendix 6**). The first public consultation event was advertised in the *Inverness Courier* on 21st May 2024 and the second public consultation event was advertised in the *Inverness Courier* on the 13th August 2024.

4.10 Attendees were made aware that pre-application consultation does not remove their right or the potential need to comment on the final application once it is made to the planning authority. Attendees were informed that details of how to comment on the final application would be made available via the project website.

First Public Consultation Event

4.11 The first public consultation event was held at Kirkhill Community Centre, St Mary's Rd, Kirkhill, Inverness IV5 7NX from 2pm-7pm on Tuesday 28th May 2024. Nine display boards were presented to the public, which included information about Field, an overview of the Proposed Development and responses to frequently asked questions about BESS technologies **(see Appendix 7)**. This event was undertaken during an early stage of the design process and the public were able to provide comments on the Proposed Development based on those early-stage design studies.

4.12 Figure 2 below shows a copy of the early-stage concept layout which was presented on the information boards. A more detailed indicative layout plan was also presented for discussion in A3 printed format (**Appendix 9**).

Figure 2: Concept design presented at the first Public Consultation Event

4.13 A total of 44 people attended the first consultation event.

4.14 The feedback at the first consultation event can be summarised as follows:

- Concern over the proximity of the batteries to the river;
- General opposition to BESS;
- Concerns over the risk of fire and battery safety;
- Interest in the community benefits provided as part of the Proposed Development; and
- Concern over the cumulative impact of energy infrastructure in the local area.

4.15 Field's response to the feedback provided may be found in the table below at section 4.27.

Second Public Consultation Event

4.16 The second public consultation event was held at Phipps Hall, Station Road, Beauly, IV4 7EH from 2pm-7pm on Wednesday 21st August 2024.

4.17 All political stakeholders (**Appendix 1**) were contacted again on 14th August to invite them to the second consultation event.

4.18 In response to the feedback received at the first consultation event, 7 additional display boards were presented at the second event (**Appendix 8**). In summary, these additional boards contained information regarding:

- Information about the Construction Traffic Management Plan
- Information regarding Field's other sites across Scotland and the UK
- Opportunity for attendees to provide suggestions for community benefits
- An additional FAQs board
- Further information on the development of the batteries
- Further information about fire safety plans

4.19 The consultation boards also included a summary of the changes that had been made to the design following the progression of environmental studies and based on feedback from stakeholders including The Highland Council. An updated FAQ board was also produced to replace those presented at the first event.

4.20 A total of 50 people attended the second consultation event.

4.21 The feedback at the second consultation event can be summarised as follows:

- Concerns regarding visual impact of the Proposed Development;
- Concern over the proximity of the batteries to the river;
- General opposition to BESS in the local area;
- Concerns over the risk of fire and battery safety;
- Interest in the community benefits provided as part of the Proposed Development; and
- Concern over the cumulative impact of energy infrastructure in the local area.

4.22 The community benefits suggestion board was populated by attendees at the consultation event. An image of the populated board at the end of the event may be found in **Appendix 9**.

4.23 Field's response to the feedback provided may be found in the table below at section 4.27.

Consultation Feedback

4.24 21 completed feedback forms were received from attendees following the events. The results are presented below.

4.25 The feedback form included two multiple choice tick box questions and a space for additional comments.

Question 1: Has this brochure been helpful in understanding our proposal?

YES	NO	NO ANSWER
13	3	5

Question 2: With regards to the proposals you have read about within this brochure, are you:

IN FAVOUR	IN OBJECTION	OF NO OPINION
8	17	1

Question 3: Additional comments

4.26 18 of the feedback forms contained additional comments. **Appendix 10** contains those comments in full, in addition to Field's response.

4.27 Overall feedback was mixed with some negative feedback revolving around the site's proximity to the river and the safety of BESS in general. However, there were a number of respondents who supported the development citing the discreet location of the proposed development.

4.28 Feedback received during the consultation process for the Proposed Development has provided Field with an understanding of the key concerns of the local community. The key issues raised and a summary of how Field has addressed these issues is provided below.

Key Issues Raised	Field's Response
Concerns regarding visual impact of the Proposed Development	Field has carefully considered potential visual impacts. The location of the compound within the site has been selected to minimise its landscape and visual impact. Locating the BESS compound towards the south of the Site maximises its distance to the A862 to the north, as well as makes the best use of the visual screening offered by existing tree belts around the Site. The fencing around the Site

	would be painted a recessive green colour, helping to further minimise the compound's appearance within the landscape. The proposal also includes a Landscaping Plan to demonstrate how the development will be effectively screened. The Landscaping Plan has been appropriately designed to use native woodland and heathland species to compliment the existing ecological baseline. This includes the creation and retention of wet heathland habitats and native scrub woodland onsite, ultimately resulting in a biodiversity enhancement of greater than 10% for the Proposed Development.
Concern over the proximity of the batteries to the river and potential contamination	In normal operational scenarios, there is no leakage, off-gas or other contaminant released from the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development has been designed to include a drainage system capable of collecting and holding any contaminated water run-off associated with potential site perimeter cooling that may be used in the highly unlikely event of a fire. In order to capture and hold any potentially contaminated water run-off, a two-basin drainage strategy has been implemented in the site design. During normal operation, run-off will be collected in a clay-lined attenuation basin, before draining via the infiltration basin. However, in the event of an emergency, Field's operatives will use the penstock valve between the attenuation basin and infiltration basin, to ensure that contaminated water does not enter the surrounding environment, including the River Beauly. With the penstock valve engaged, the Site drainage has been designed to contain any surface water.
Concerns over the risk of fire and battery safety in general	Field is an industry leader in relation to fire safety. Workstreams undertaken by Field in relation to BESS fire safety include: sitting on government working groups to help define BESS fire safety standards, working closely with suppliers to understand the latest BESS safety features and fire safety testing and engaging with local fire and rescue services. Field has prepared an Outline Battery Safety Management Plan (OBSMP) to accompany

	the planning application. The OBSMP provides full details on Field's approach to battery safety management, including identifying all potential safety risks that may arise from the Proposed Development as well as the proposed measures in place to avoid and mitigate risks. These include consideration of risks relating to, but not limited to, fire events, site security and emergency access.
Interest in the community benefits provided as part of the Proposed Development	Field has committed to working with the National Schools Partnership to design a school-based education programme for schools surrounding the Proposed Development. The programme, which launched in August 2024, supports educators to offer secondary school students essential information about the various job opportunities available in the energy sector, the required training for these positions, and the pathways to follow for pursuing these careers. Field has identified target schools for the programme, based on a catchment area from the Proposed Development. This demand-led education strategy bolsters the region's capability to maximise the employment opportunities available in the wider energy transition.
Concern over the cumulative impact of energy infrastructure in the local area	We are aware of other proposals in the nearby area, including the Lovatt BESS projects (Lovatt and Caulternich) and the proposed new Fanellan substation nearby and proposed new overhead line projects. While we are actively aware of these proposals, Field Beauly is not related to these projects. Any potential cumulative impacts will be assessed and considered through the planning application.

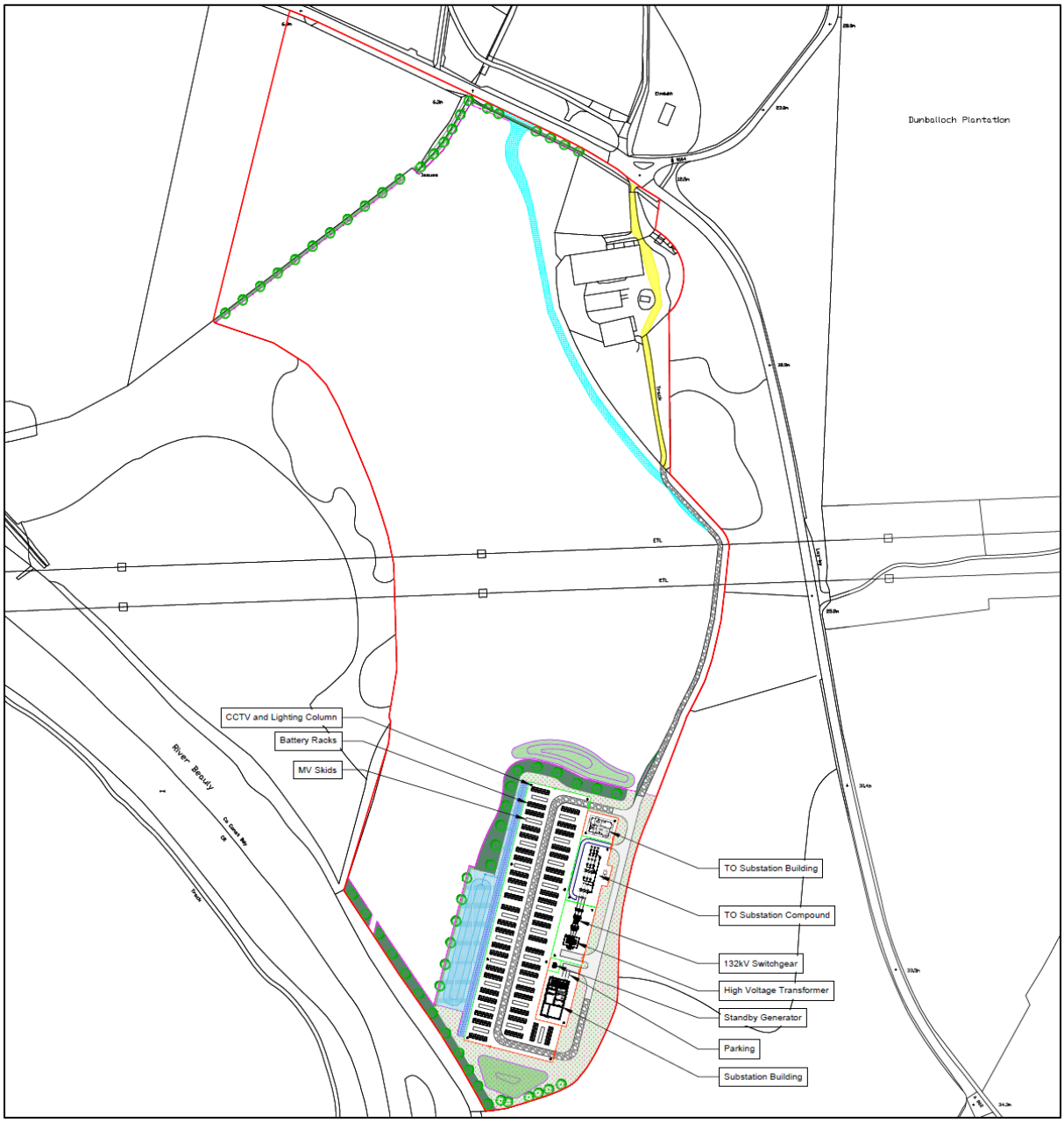


Figure 3: Final Site Layout Plan.

5. Other Consultation

5.1 In addition to the public consultation described in section 4, the Applicant has carried out extensive consultation with other relevant stakeholders and government agencies to inform the development of the planning application. This consultation is summarised below, and additional information is available within each relevant technical assessment.

Consultee	Summary	Relevant Assessment
The Highland Council, Planning	Pre-application consultation was undertaken with the Highland Council's Planning team through the PAN consultation process (THC ref. 24/02632/PAN). The subsequent decision notice provided detailed material considerations that would be considered when a planning application is received. On 11th September 2024, the Applicant engaged with The Highland Council (THC) via their Pre-Application Advice Service for Major Developments. This included a 1.5 hour meeting which comprised an introduction to the Proposed Development, an overview of the assessments and underpinning methodologies proposed to support the planning application, and an opportunity for THC to ask questions and provide initial advice. On 8th October 2024, THC provided written pre-application advice which summarised the key issues and information required to be considered and supplied as part of the final planning application to the ECU. The written advice included inputs from various internal departments within THC and external bodies including Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA), NatureScot and Historic Environment Scotland (HES).	All technical assessments and planning drawings have been informed by the feedback received in THC's pre-application advice relating to planning and environmental considerations and information requirements.
The Highland Council, Environmental Health Officer (North) (EHO)	Pre-application consultation was undertaken with the Highland Council's EHO. The EHO has agreed the methodology for the noise assessment and specified the criteria that are required to be met for the noise assessment. The consultation is documented in the Noise Impact Assessment.	Noise Impact Assessment (WSP, 2024)
The Highland Council, Transport Planning	Pell Frischmann engaged with The Highland Council's Transport Planning Officer for pre-application feedback on the point of access from the highways to the site. On the basis of this feedback, a temporary construction access road has been proposed for the site. The details of this consultation and the temporary access design are within the submitted Transport Statement and CTMP.	Transport Statement and CTMP (Pell Frischmann, 2024)
The Highland Council, Landscape Officer	TNEI requested pre-application consultation with the Highland Council's Landscape Officer. The purpose of this approach was to agree on selected viewpoints to be included within the Landscape and Visual Assessment (LVA). Five viewpoints were selected and included within the LVA. These were selected based on the professional	Landscape and Visual Appraisal (TGP, 2024)

Consultee	Summary	Relevant Assessment
	advice and assessment undertaken by TGP. The Landscape Officer at THC confirmed that these viewpoints were suitable as part of the pre-application advice process.	
NatureScot	Tetra Tech engaged with NatureScot via a consultation letter which was sent on the 26th of November 2024to receive confirmation on the proposed approach to undertaking the Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA). Although a response was pending at the time of submission, the Stage 1 and Stage 2 HRA was undertaken using best practice guidelines and professional judgement by experienced ecologists. NatureScot's response, once received, would further inform the HRA process and amendments would be made as necessary.	Report to Inform Habitats Regulations Assessment Stage 1 and Stage 2 (TetraTech, 2024)
Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA)	Haydn Evans as the appointed Flood Risk and Drainage Consultant for the project, sought pre-application advice from SEPA via email to review and agree on the proposed flood risk and drainage strategy included within this S.36 submission. SEPA subsequently directed Haydn Evans towards the water permitting team at SEPA for further information on regulatory advice and discharge to watercourses. No further drainage advice could be provided at this stage.	Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Impact Assessment (Haydn Evans, 2024)

6. Design Changes Following Consultation

6.1. Over the course of the pre-application consultation period, Field has made several changes to the site design as a result of stakeholder engagement, the progression of environmental studies and constructability requirements. In addition to design changes, Field has also committed to the development of additional technical assessments to accompany the planning application in response to points raised during the consultation period.

6.2. These changes have included:

- Refinement of the size and design of the proposed drainage strategy to implement an attenuation basin in addition to the infiltration basin to provide containment for water in the case of a fire.
- Refinement of site access design following engagement with The Highland Council's transport team, including:
    - Inclusion of a temporary construction access road from the A862;
    - Swept path analysis to ensure all oversized construction and emergency vehicles can access the site; and
    - Design of passing places along the access road.
- Strengthening the landscape design elements including incorporating perimeter planting around the field boundary, including along the A862, in addition to widening the tree belt around the compound boundary itself, as informed by landscape and visual impact analysis and biodiversity enhancement requirements;
- Reduction of the overall development footprint and impact profile through the selection of a smaller candidate battery technology;
- Painting the fence a recessive green colour, to help soften the BESS compound's appearance within the landscape;
- Introduction of an acoustic barrier as fencing along the southern and eastern boundaries of the BESS compound to reduce noise impacts on surrounding noise sensitive receptors;
- Landscape design introducing bunds to the north and south of the compound, informed by landscape and visual impact analysis and ensuring that they look natural and not man-made; and
- Landscape design including additional planting parallel to the River Beauly to further mitigate views from the Core Path on the western side of the river.

7. Conclusion

7.1. Feedback highlighted perspectives and considerations regarding the Proposed Development, offering useful insights for further review. Most feedback centered on the cumulative impact of the development alongside others in the area, with the majority of negative feedback revolving around the site's proximity to the river and a general opposition to BESS in the local area. There were also concerns around the safety of batteries, and the cumulative impact of developments in the Beauly area. However, there were a number of respondents who supported the development citing the discreet location of the Proposed Development, set back from the road behind the overhead lines.

7.2. Field ensured that the concerns and questions of the local community were addressed through the provision of additional information at the second consultation event, as well as detailing further on the ongoing impact assessments in areas of concern.

7.3. In addition to public consultation, Field has undertaken extensive consultation with other key stakeholders, including relevant departments within The Highland Council, including the Environmental Health Officer (North), The Highland Council's Transport Planning, and the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA).

7.4. The feedback and advice received through consultation with the community and relevant stakeholders has informed the final design and supporting technical assessments to ensure all relevant planning and environmental issues have been appropriately considered.

8. Appendices

- **Appendix 1**: List of contacted stakeholders
- **Appendix 2:** Proposal of Application Notice (PAN)
- **Appendix 3:** Field Beauly website
- **Appendix 4:** Local resident invite brochure
- **Appendix 5**: Local resident invite brochure distribution area
- **Appendix 6**: Public consultation event newspaper adverts
- **Appendix 7**: First consultation event boards
- **Appendix 8:** Second consultation event boards
- **Appendix 9**: Community benefits suggestions
- **Appendix 10**: Comments received via feedback form and Applicant's response

Appendix 1: List of Stakeholder's contacted

Name	Position
Cllr Raymond Bremner	Leader of the Council
Cllr Ken Gowans	Chair, Economy and Infrastructure Committee
Cllr Karl Rosie/ Cllr Sarah Fanet	Chair, Climate Change Committee
Cllr Chris Ballance	Site Ward Councillor (Aird and Loch Ness)
Cllr Helen Crawford	Site Ward Councillor (Aird and Loch Ness)
Cllr David Fraser	Site Ward Councillor (Aird and Loch Ness)
Cllr Emma Knox	Site Ward Councillor (Aird and Loch Ness)
Cllr Sean Kennedy	Neighbouring Ward Councillor (Dingwall and Seaforth)
Cllr Graham MacKenzie	Neighbouring Ward Councillor (Dingwall and Seaforth)
Cllr Angela Maclean	Neighbouring Ward Councillor (Dingwall and Seaforth)
Cllr Margaret Paterson	Neighbouring Ward Councillor (Dingwall and Seaforth)
Drew Hendry/Jamie Stone	Site MP
Kate Forbes	Site MSP (Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch)
Douglas Ross	Regional List MSP (Highlands and Islands)
Edward Mountain	Regional List MSP (Highlands and Islands)
Rhoda Grant	Regional List MSP (Highlands and Islands)
Tim Eagle	Regional List MSP (Highlands and Islands)
Ariane Burgess	Regional List MSP (Highlands and Islands)
Jamie Halcro Johnston	Regional List MSP (Highlands and Islands)
Emma Roddick	Regional List MSP (Highlands and Islands)
Kitarlity Community Council	Site Community Council
Kilmorack Community Council	Neighbouring Community Council
Beauly Community Council	Neighbouring Community Council
Kirkhill and Bunchrew Community Council	Neighbouring Community Council

The below email was sent to all stakeholders listed above ahead of the first consultation event, along with a copy of the consultation brochure. A follow up email was sent ahead of the second consultation event.

Dear XXXXXX,

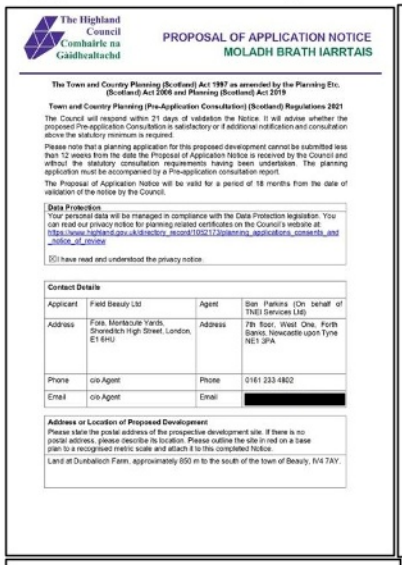
I am contacting you by way of courtesy on behalf of Field regarding proposals for a battery energy storage system (Field Beauly) on land west of the A862 and east of the River Beauly, IV4 7BE. The battery will have a capacity of up to 100 MW and will store and provide electricity to create a greener and more stable grid.

***We will be holding our first public consultation event on Tuesday 28th May 2024, 2pm-7pm, at Kirkhill Community Centre, St Mary's Rd, Kirkhill, Inverness IV5 7NX**. This will provide the local community with information about the proposal and give them the opportunity to ask any questions they may have.*

Please find attached a brochure with further information about our proposal and public consultation events, which will shortly be sent to local households. We also have a project website which may be accessed at www.fieldbeauly.co.uk.

Please do let me know if you have any questions or if you would like a briefing on the proposal. Alternatively, we would be glad to welcome you at our events.

Appendix 2: Proposal of Application Notice



The Highland Council
Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

PROPOSAL OF APPLICATION NOTICE
MOLADH BRATH IARRTAIS

The Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 as amended by the Planning Etc. (Scotland) Act 2006 and Planning (Scotland) Act 2019

Town and Country Planning (Pre-Application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations 2021

The Council will respond within 21 days of validation the Notice. It will advise whether the proposed Pre-application Consultation is satisfactory or if additional notification and consultation above the statutory minimum is required.

Please note that a planning application for this proposed development cannot be submitted less than 12 weeks from the date the Proposal of Application Notice is received by the Council and without the statutory consultation requirements having been undertaken. The planning application must be accompanied by a Pre-application consultation report.

The Proposal of Application Notice will be valid for a period of 18 months from the date of validation of the notice by the Council.

Data Protection

Your personal data will be managed in compliance with the Data Protection legislation. You can read our privacy notice for planning related certificates on the Council's website at: https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory_record/1092173/planning_applications_consents_and_notice_of_review

☒ I have read and understood the privacy notice.

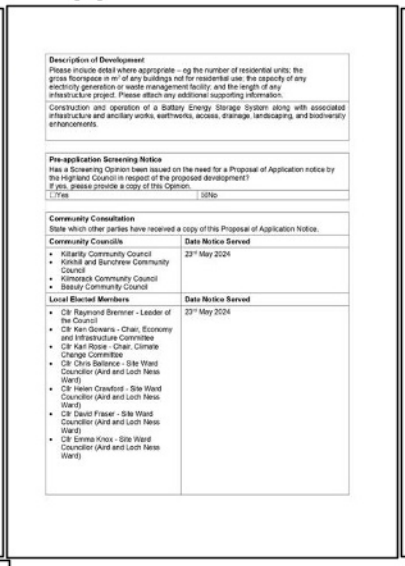
Contact Details

Applicant	Field Beauly Ltd	Agent	Ben Parkins (On behalf of TNEI Services Ltd)
Address	Fora, Montacute Yards, Shoreditch High Street, London, E1 6HU	Address	7th floor, West One, Forth Banks, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 3PA
Phone	c/o Agent	Phone	0161 233 4802
Email	c/o Agent	Email	[redacted]

Address or Location of Proposed Development

Please state the postal address of the prospective development site. If there is no postal address, please describe its location. Please outline the site in red on a base plan to a recognised metric scale and attach it to this completed Notice.

Land at Dunballoch Farm, approximately 850 m to the south of the town of Beauly, IV4 7AY.



Description of Development

Please include detail where appropriate – eg the number of residential units; the gross floorspace in m² of any buildings not for residential use; the capacity of any electricity generation or waste management facility; and the length of any infrastructure project. Please attach any additional supporting information.

Construction and operation of a Battery Energy Storage System along with associated infrastructure and ancillary works, earthworks, access, drainage, landscaping, and biodiversity enhancements.

Pre-application Screening Notice

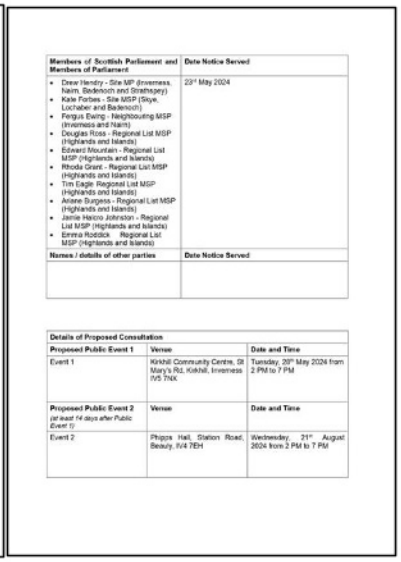
Has a Screening Opinion been issued on the need for a Proposal of Application notice by the Highland Council in respect of the proposed development?
If yes, please provide a copy of this Opinion.

☐ Yes ☒ No

Community Consultation

State which other parties have received a copy of this Proposal of Application Notice.

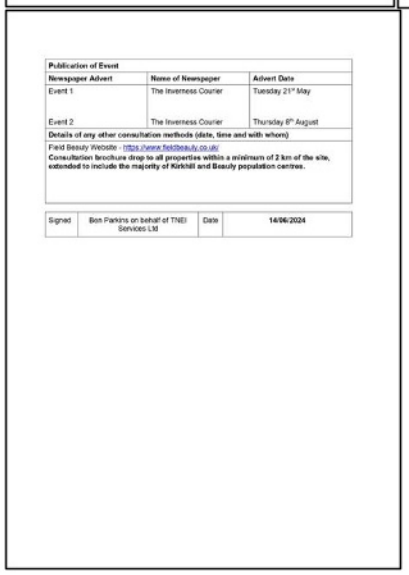
Community Councils	Date Notice Served
• Killarrity Community Council • Kirkhill and Bunchrew Community Council • Kilmorack Community Council • Beauly Community Council	23rd May 2024
Local Elected Members	**Date Notice Served**
• Cllr Raymond Bremner - Leader of the Council • Cllr Ken Gowans - Chair, Economy and Infrastructure Committee • Cllr Karl Rosie - Chair, Climate Change Committee • Cllr Chris Ballance - Site Ward Councillor (Aird and Loch Ness Ward) • Cllr Helen Crawford - Site Ward Councillor (Aird and Loch Ness Ward) • Cllr David Fraser - Site Ward Councillor (Aird and Loch Ness Ward) • Cllr Emma Knox - Site Ward Councillor (Aird and Loch Ness Ward)	23rd May 2024



Members of Scottish Parliament and Members of Parliament	Date Notice Served
• Drew Hendry - Site MP (Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey) • Kate Forbes - Site MSP (Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch) • Fergus Ewing - Neighbouring MSP (Inverness and Nairn) • Douglas Ross - Regional List MSP (Highlands and Islands) • Edward Mountain - Regional List MSP (Highlands and Islands) • Rhoda Grant - Regional List MSP (Highlands and Islands) • Tim Eagle Regional List MSP (Highlands and Islands) • Ariane Burgess - Regional List MSP (Highlands and Islands) • Jamie Halcro Johnston - Regional List MSP (Highlands and Islands) • Emma Roddick Regional List MSP (Highlands and Islands)	23rd May 2024
Names / details of other parties	**Date Notice Served**

Details of Proposed Consultation

Proposed Public Event 1	Venue	Date and Time
Event 1	Kirkhill Community Centre, St Mary's Rd, Kirkhill, Inverness IV5 7NX	Tuesday, 20th May 2024 from 2 PM to 7 PM
Proposed Public Event 2 *(at least 14 days after Public Event 1)*	**Venue**	**Date and Time**
Event 2	Phipps Hall, Station Road, Beauly, IV4 7EH	Wednesday, 21st August 2024 from 2 PM to 7 PM



Publication of Event

Newspaper Advert	Name of Newspaper	Advert Date
Event 1	The Inverness Courier	Tuesday 21st May
Event 2	The Inverness Courier	Thursday 8th August

Details of any other consultation methods (date, time and with whom)

Field Beauly Website - https://www.fieldbeauly.co.uk/
Consultation brochure drop to all properties within a minimum of 2 km of the site, extended to include the majority of Kirkhill and Beauly population centres.

Signed	Ben Parkins on behalf of TNEI Services Ltd	Date	14/06/2024

Covering Letter

14 June, 2024

Ref: 16621-001-R1

Planning and Building Standards
ePlanning Centre
The Highland Council
Glenurquhart Road
Inverness
IV3 5NX

Copy: Sent by email only to - eplanning@highland.gov.uk

Dear Sir/Madam,

NOTIFICATION OF PROPOSAL OF APPLICATION NOTICE (PAN) FOR PROPOSED BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (BESS) DEVELOPMENT WITH AN INSTALLED CAPACITY OF UP TO 100 MW ON LAND AT DUNBALLOCH FARM, BEAULY, IV4 7AY.

On behalf of Field Beauly Ltd (Field/the Applicant), TNEI Services Limited (TNEI) has enclosed a Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) for the construction and operation of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) with an installed storage capacity of up to 100 MW (the 'Proposed Development') located on Land at Dunballoch Farm, approximately 850 m to the south of the village of Beauly (the 'Site'). The Site is approximately centred at National Grid Reference (NGR) NH 52812 44380, the nearest postcode is IV4 7AY, and the total Site area is 18.51 hectares (ha). The Site location is identified as per the Red Line Boundary contained within the attached Site Location Plan (figure ref. 16621-003 R1) submitted alongside this document, and the completed application form; taken together these documents constitute the PAN Notification request.

The Proposed Development will have an installed storage capacity of up to 100 MW, subsequently requiring the Applicant to submit a Section 36 (S36) Application under the Electricity Act (1989) to the Energy Consents Unit (ECU) for determination by the Scottish Ministers. A PAN is not a statutory requirement for an application made under S36 of the Electricity Act 1989 and is therefore submitted alongside this document under the specific direction of The Highland Council (THC).

The hierarchy of development is irrelevant to a S36 submission. However, as the Proposed Development has a total Site area of 16.55 ha, it's size and scale is consistent with that of a major development had it been subject for determination under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997.

The purpose of submitting a PAN is to inform THC of the pre-application process the Applicant proposes to undertake ahead of the S36 submission. A Pre-Application Consultation Report (PAC Report) will be submitted alongside the S36 application to detail the outcomes of the pre-application process.

As per the contents of this Notice, the applicant will continue to engage with the local community and other key stakeholders to explain and obtain further feedback prior to the S36 submission – currently expected in September 2024.

Newcastle
7th Floor West One
Forth Banks
Newcastle Upon Tyne
NE1 3PA

Tel: +44(0)191 211 1400
Email: info@tneigroup.com
Website: www.tneigroup.com

Although a S36 application, the Applicant is keen to draw parity with requirements under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 and its corresponding relevant Regulations. The information below, such as the consultation strategy, outlines our understanding of Part 2 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 and revisions detailed within the Town and Country Planning (Pre-Application Consultation) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2021 (the PAC Amendment Regulations) and how we intend to comply with these.

Pre-Application Consultation Strategy

In accordance with the pre-application consultation requirements set out in the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 (as amended) (the DMP), the Applicant will undertake the following:

- Provide formal written notification to relevant locally elected members;
- Provide the PAN to the community council within which the Proposed Development is located, and to those adjoining;
- Hold at least 2 No. public events; and
- Publish in a local newspaper.

Following these events, the Applicant will summarise the outcomes of all consultation discussions and events within a PAC Report.

The following information is provided to allow for the acceptance of this PAN by THC:

1. Public Events

The Applicant will host two public events spaced a minimum of two weeks apart from each other and each advertised within the local newspaper, The Inverness Courier, no less than seven days prior to the event taking place. The place, date and time of these public events are as follows:

- Event 1 at Kirkhill Community Centre, St Mary's Rd, Kirkhill, Inverness IV5 7NX, on Tuesday, 28th May 2024 from 2 PM to 7 PM; and
- Event 2 at Phipps Hall, Station Road, Beauly, IV4 7EH, on Wednesday, 21st August 2024 from 2 PM to 7 PM.

The public events will include professional and expert attendance and will be undertaken in a drop-in session format. Comments cards will be made available for members of the public or interested stakeholders/third parties to provide comments to the Applicant and the development team. Prior to the second consultation event occurring, any consequential changes to the proposed development will be reflected in Event 2.

2. Correspondence with Elected Officials

The Proposed Development is located within the Aird and Loch Ness (Ward 12). As part of the PAC process, and prior to the public events taking place, the Applicant will directly engage with the ward members of this Council ward. At the time of submission, the members who will be contacted in writing are:

- Cllr Chris Balance;
- Cllr Helen Crawford;
- Cllr David Fraser; and
- Cllr Emma Knox.

Each elected member will receive notification of the dates for the public events, alongside an invitation to attend. They shall also be advised of the contact information for the applicant and/or their agent (TNEI). Formal correspondence with elected members will take place in writing via email.

Additional public representatives have also been contacted to request engagement prior to the public events taking place, including the following:

- Cllr Raymond Bremner - Leader of the Council;
- Cllr Ken Gowans - Chair, Economy, and Infrastructure Committee;
- Cllr Karl Rosie - Chair, Climate Change Committee;
- Drew Hendry - Site MP (Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch, and Strathspey);
- Kate Forbes - Site MSP (Skye, Lochaber, and Badenoch);
- Fergus Ewing - Neighbouring MSP (Inverness and Nairn);
- Douglas Ross - Regional List MSP (Highlands and Islands);
- Edward Mountain - Regional List MSP (Highlands and Islands);
- Rhoda Grant - Regional List MSP (Highlands and Islands);
- Tim Eagle - Regional List MSP (Highlands and Islands);
- Ariane Burgess - Regional List MSP (Highlands and Islands);
- Jamie Halcro Johnston - Regional List MSP (Highlands and Islands); and
- Emma Roddick - Regional List MSP (Highlands and Islands).

3. Correspondence with Community Councils

At the same time as the notification to the Elected Officials provided above, written notification of the proposed development and the public event details will be given to the following Community Councils (CC):

- Kiltarlity CC;
- Kilmorack CC;
- Beauly CC; and
- Kirkhill and Bunchrew CC.

4. PAC Report

Following the completion of our pre-application consultation activities, we will prepare a PAC report to accompany the planning application. This will provide a summary of the feedback received, highlighting any specific issues which the public may have raised in respect of the proposed development, and which resulted in modifications to the scheme. Any comments received in writing either during the consultation events, or otherwise will be retained and evidenced within the PAC Report.

Concluding Remarks

It is understood by the Applicant that the aforementioned proposed pre-application consultation measures are not statutory requirements for Section 36 applications but are intended as best practice in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 (as amended).

We trust that the information provided on our intended pre-application consultation for the Proposed Development is acceptable.

Should you require any further information at this stage, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

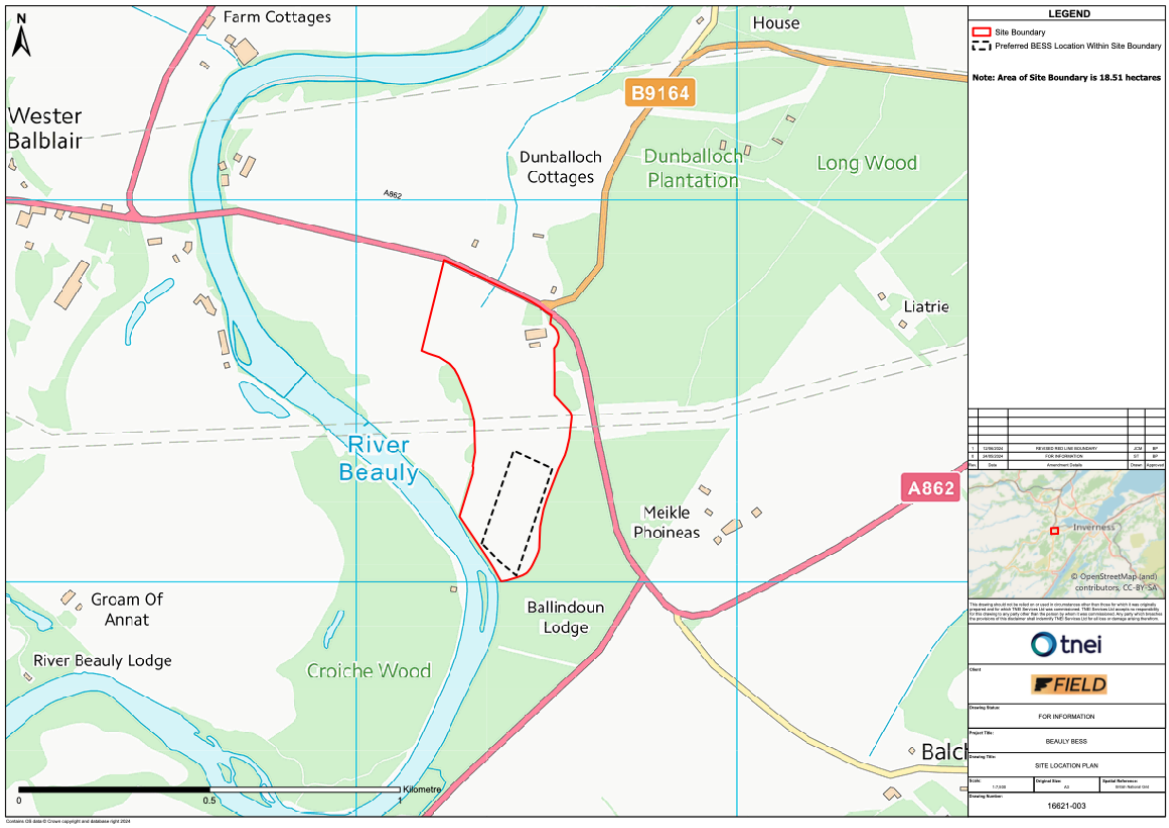
Yours faithfully,

[redacted]

Ben Parkins
Principal Consultant
[redacted]

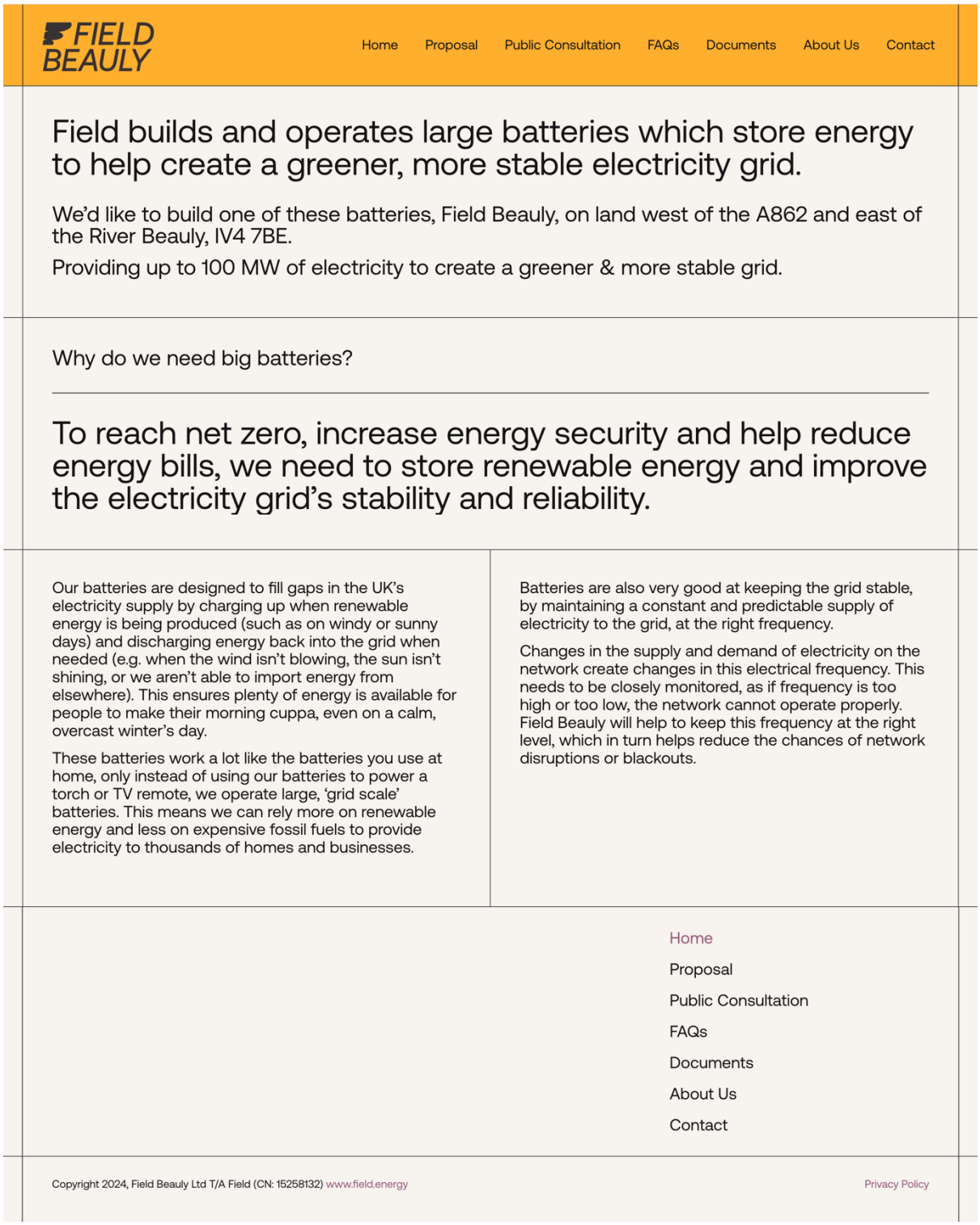
Encl. The Highland Council PoAN Form (completed)
Site Location Plan

Site Location Plan



Appendix 3: Field Beauly Website

Home Page



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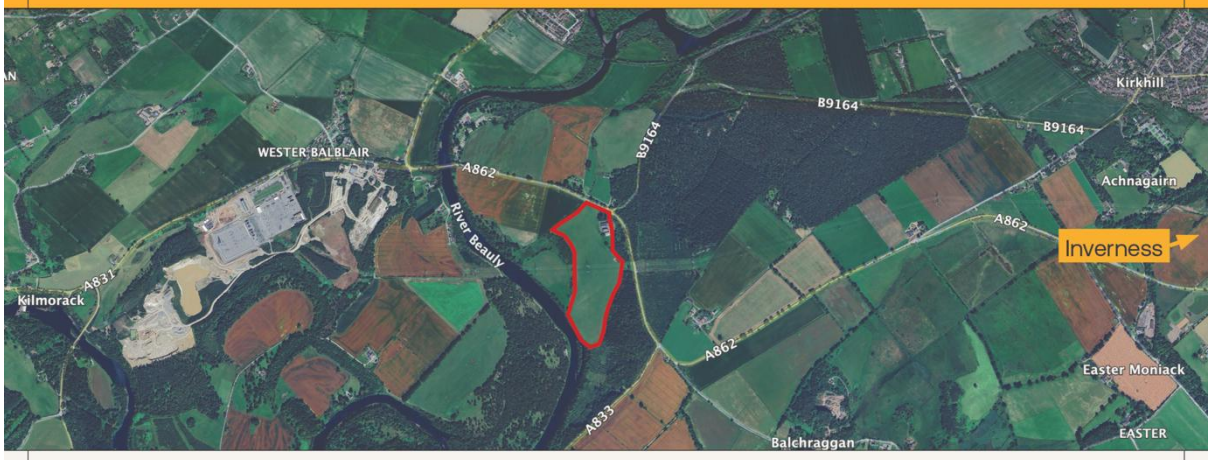
PROPOSAL



Field Beauly would be located east of the existing Beauly substation.

We'll also provide landscaping to reduce visual impacts and biodiversity enhancements so we are having a positive ecological effect on the land we use.

Field Beauly will be made up of the following components:

Battery energy storage units, which will be used to store the energy from the grid.	**Power conversion systems** (including inverters and transformers), which convert energy from alternating current to direct current, so that it can be stored by the batteries.	An **on-site substation**, which either steps up or steps down the voltage of the energy being stored.	An underground **cable connection** to the existing Beauly Substation. Detailed design work for the cable route of roughly 2km will be completed by SSE in the coming months. This will be consented and constructed by SSE separately from the Field Beauly project.
Site **access tracks** to allow vehicles (including emergency vehicles) to safely get around the site.	**Drainage arrangements** to allow surface water to drain from the site at the same rate as the existing fields.	**Site security**, including CCTV, fencing and lighting.	**Landscaping** to reduce visual impacts and contribute to biodiversity enhancement.

Working with local communities

Our batteries will provide huge benefits to the UK, and we take great care to make sure this is not to the detriment of the communities that host them.

As a responsible developer and operator, listening to local communities matters to us, as it allows us to understand and respond to local issues, and ultimately build better battery sites.

We engage early with communities throughout the development process, oversee the construction on-site and we're responsible for the project once it's in operation. We're part of communities for the long-term.

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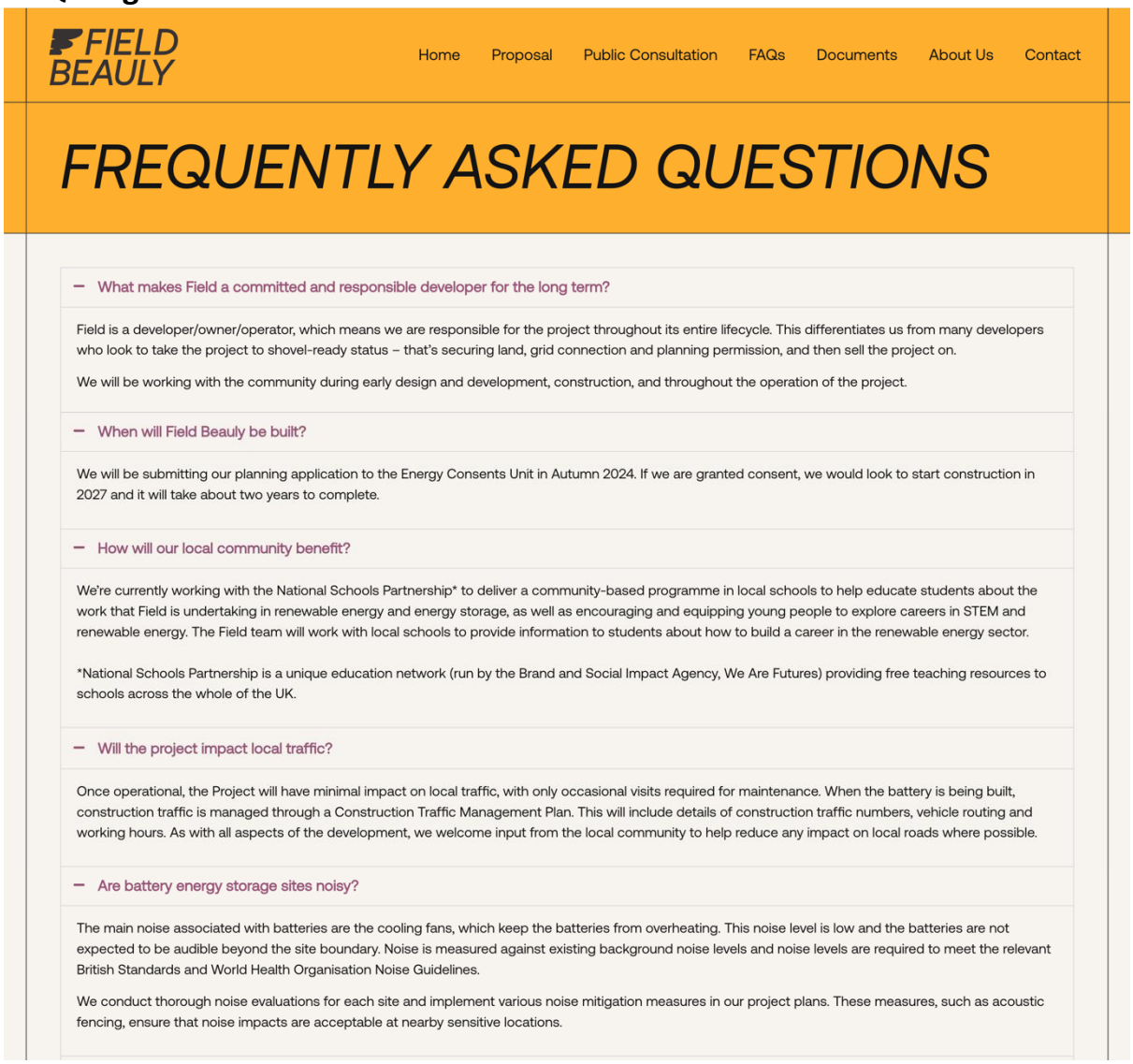

FIELD BEAULY

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What makes Field a committed and responsible developer for the long term?

Field is a developer/owner/operator, which means we are responsible for the project throughout its entire lifecycle. This differentiates us from many developers who look to take the project to shovel-ready status – that's securing land, grid connection and planning permission, and then sell the project on.

We will be working with the community during early design and development, construction, and throughout the operation of the project.

When will Field Beauly be built?

We will be submitting our planning application to the Energy Consents Unit in Autumn 2024. If we are granted consent, we would look to start construction in 2027 and it will take about two years to complete.

How will our local community benefit?

We're currently working with the National Schools Partnership* to deliver a community-based programme in local schools to help educate students about the work that Field is undertaking in renewable energy and energy storage, as well as encouraging and equipping young people to explore careers in STEM and renewable energy. The Field team will work with local schools to provide information to students about how to build a career in the renewable energy sector.

*National Schools Partnership is a unique education network (run by the Brand and Social Impact Agency, We Are Futures) providing free teaching resources to schools across the whole of the UK.

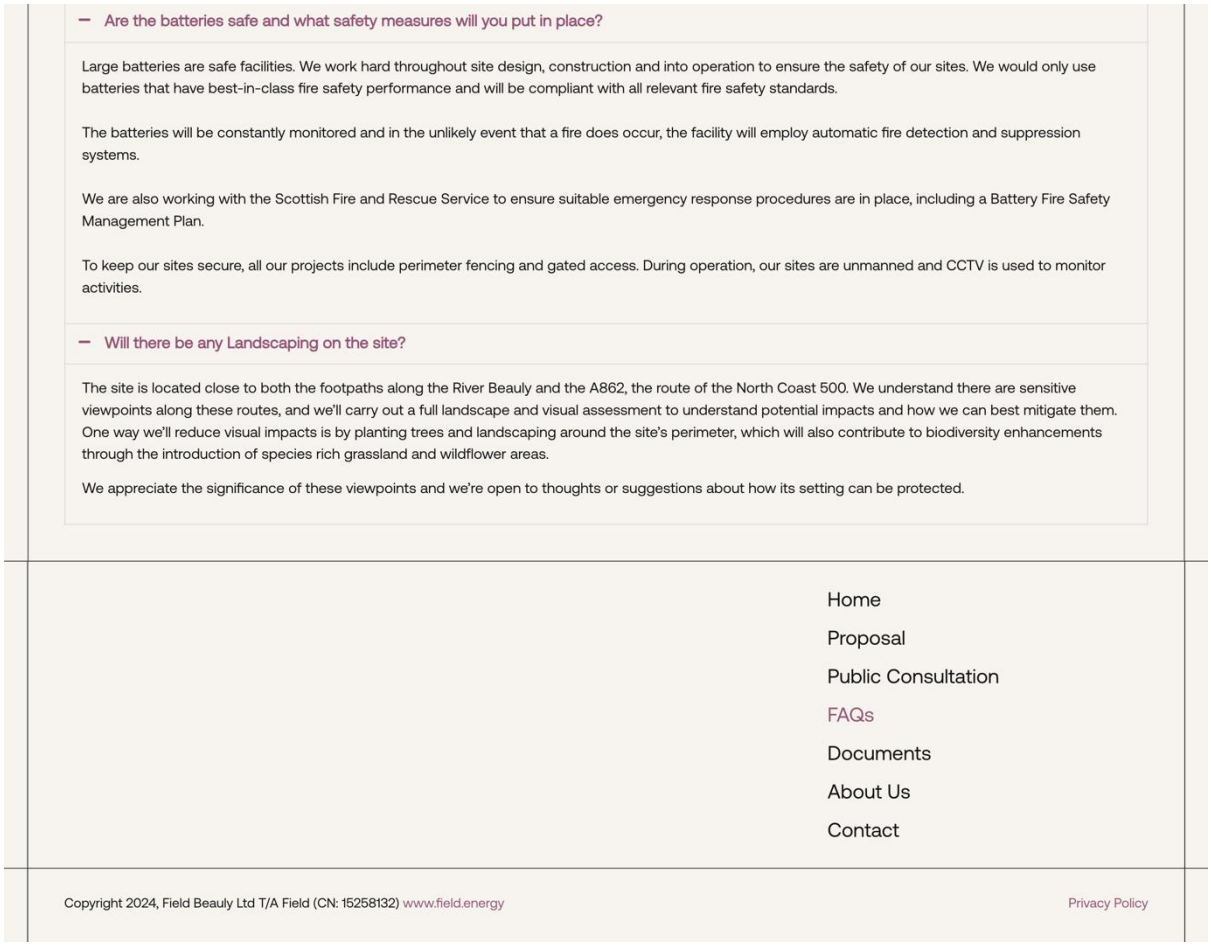
Will the project impact local traffic?

Once operational, the Project will have minimal impact on local traffic, with only occasional visits required for maintenance. When the battery is being built, construction traffic is managed through a Construction Traffic Management Plan. This will include details of construction traffic numbers, vehicle routing and working hours. As with all aspects of the development, we welcome input from the local community to help reduce any impact on local roads where possible.

Are battery energy storage sites noisy?

The main noise associated with batteries are the cooling fans, which keep the batteries from overheating. This noise level is low and the batteries are not expected to be audible beyond the site boundary. Noise is measured against existing background noise levels and noise levels are required to meet the relevant British Standards and World Health Organisation Noise Guidelines.

We conduct thorough noise evaluations for each site and implement various noise mitigation measures in our project plans. These measures, such as acoustic fencing, ensure that noise impacts are acceptable at nearby sensitive locations.



– Are the batteries safe and what safety measures will you put in place?

Large batteries are safe facilities. We work hard throughout site design, construction and into operation to ensure the safety of our sites. We would only use batteries that have best-in-class fire safety performance and will be compliant with all relevant fire safety standards.

The batteries will be constantly monitored and in the unlikely event that a fire does occur, the facility will employ automatic fire detection and suppression systems.

We are also working with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to ensure suitable emergency response procedures are in place, including a Battery Fire Safety Management Plan.

To keep our sites secure, all our projects include perimeter fencing and gated access. During operation, our sites are unmanned and CCTV is used to monitor activities.

– Will there be any Landscaping on the site?

The site is located close to both the footpaths along the River Beauly and the A862, the route of the North Coast 500. We understand there are sensitive viewpoints along these routes, and we'll carry out a full landscape and visual assessment to understand potential impacts and how we can best mitigate them. One way we'll reduce visual impacts is by planting trees and landscaping around the site's perimeter, which will also contribute to biodiversity enhancements through the introduction of species rich grassland and wildflower areas.

We appreciate the significance of these viewpoints and we're open to thoughts or suggestions about how its setting can be protected.

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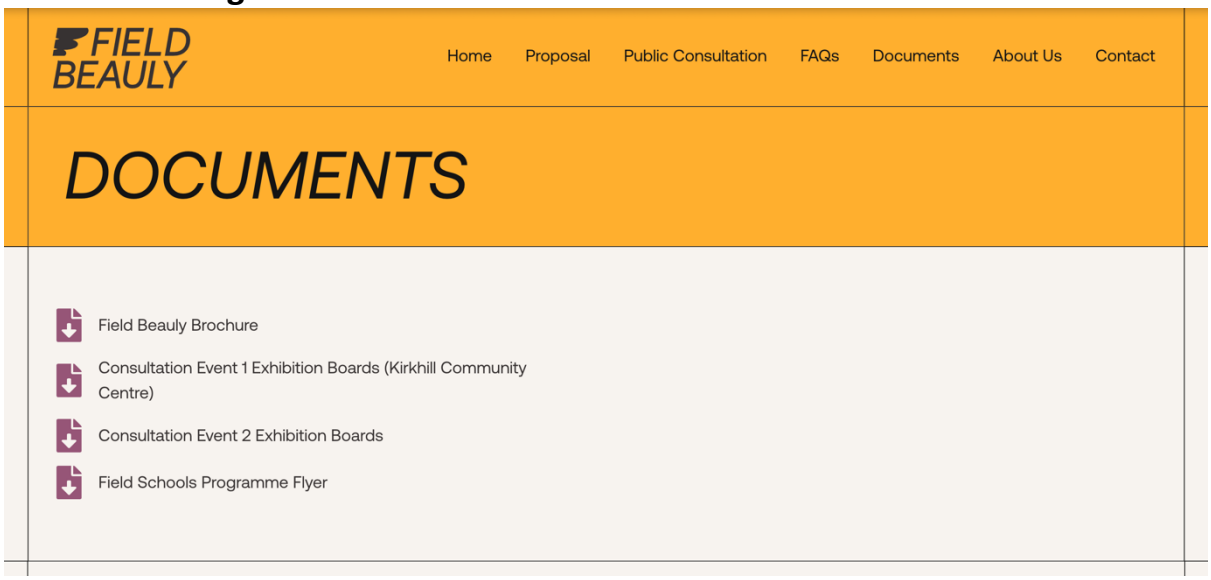

About Us Page

FIELD BEAULY

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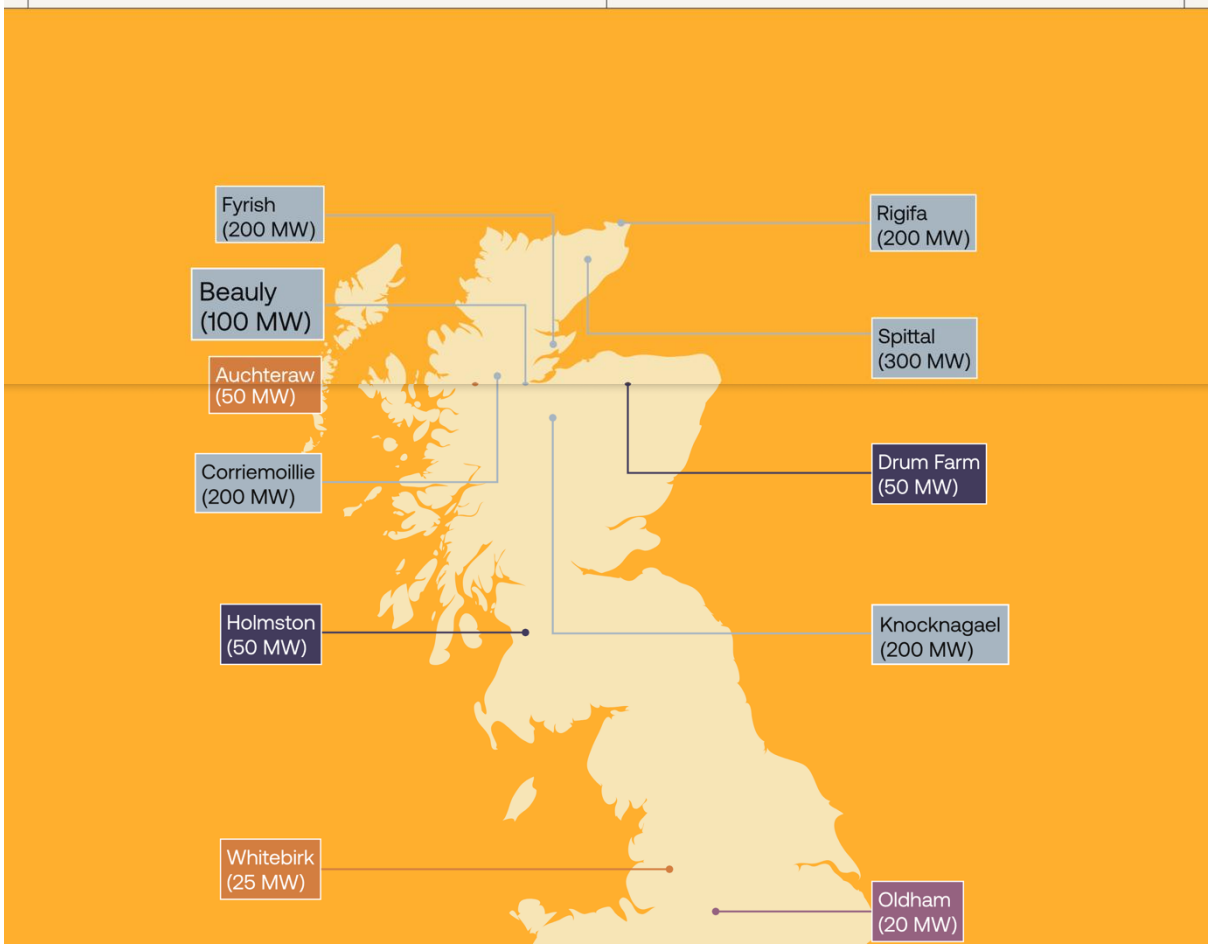
ABOUT US

Field is a leading developer, owner and operator of grid-scale batteries across the UK and Europe.

Field's aim is to develop battery projects that reduce climate change emissions, support the stable operation of the electricity grid, and bring down electricity prices for consumers.

We're responsible for all stages of project development, from initial landowner engagement through to concept design, planning, construction and operation. We're committed to designing, building and operating projects that are safe, environmentally sustainable and have as little impact as possible on the communities around them.

We value ongoing engagement with our communities to understand and respond to local perspectives and concerns, and will work with local communities throughout every stage of the project. Field Beauly would form part of Field's extensive portfolio of battery projects across the UK and Europe. In the UK, we have several projects at varying stages of development:



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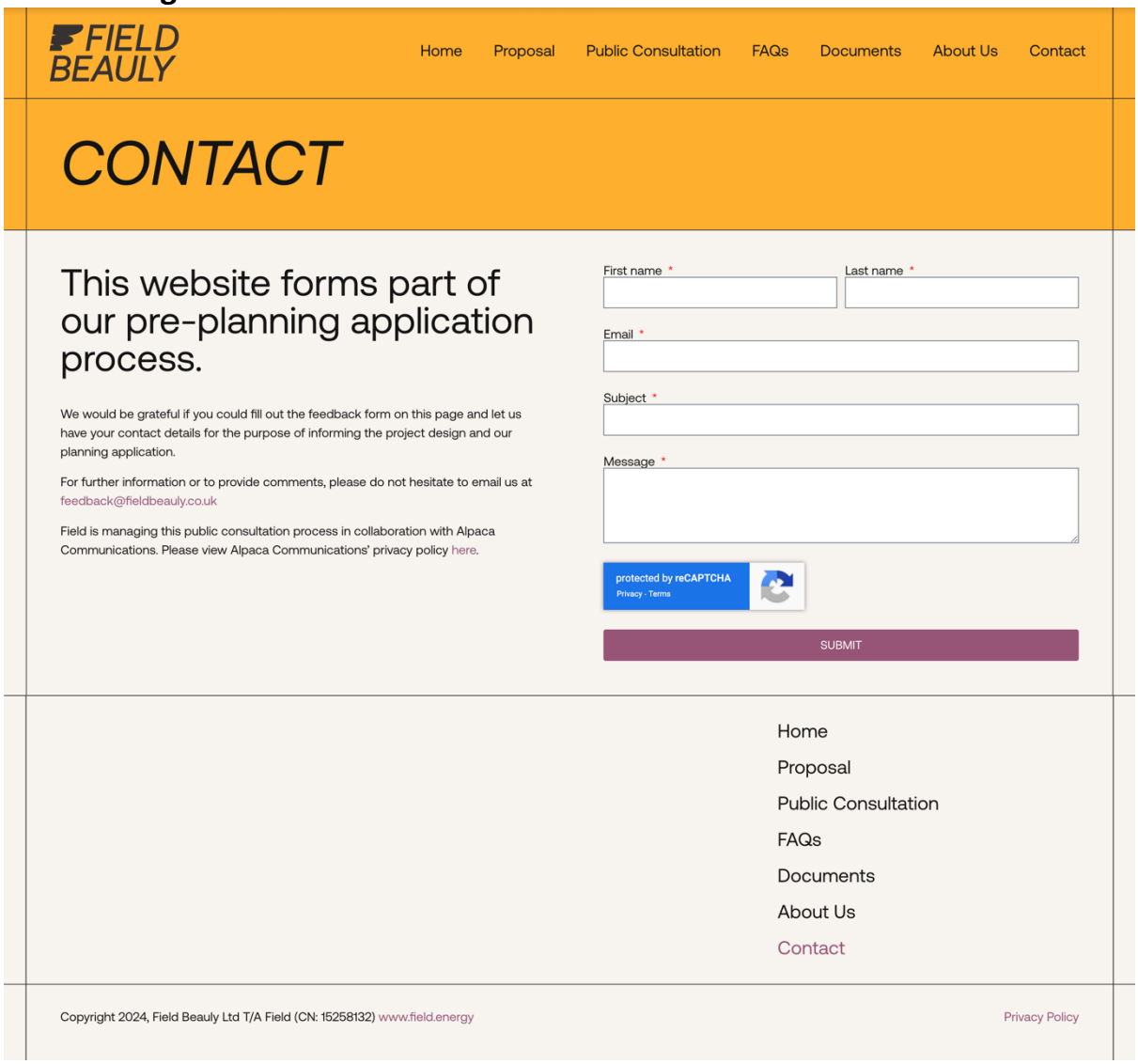

Appendix 4: Local Resident invite brochure

FIELD

FIELD BEAULY BATTERY STORAGE

Providing up to 100 MW of electricity to create a greener and more stable grid

We are holding two public consultation events on:

Tuesday 28th May 2024 2pm-7pm
Kirkhill Community Centre, St Mary's Rd, Kirkhill, Inverness IV5 7NX

Wednesday 21st August 2024 2pm-7pm
Phipps Hall, Station Road, Beauly, IV4 7EH

WHAT ARE WE PROPOSING TO BUILD AND OPERATE?

Field builds and operates large batteries which store energy to help create a greener, more stable electricity grid.

We'd like to build one of these batteries on land west of the A862 and east of the River Beauly, IV4 7BE.

Field Beauly would connect directly to Beauly substation, and would be capable of storing up to 100 MW of electricity. This is expected to avoid up to 700,000 tonnes of CO_2e emissions during the first 20 years of operation. This would be achieved by supplying the grid with electricity stored when renewable energy generation is high, therefore reducing reliance on high carbon energy sources when renewable generation is low.

Our first site was Field Oldham, a 20 MW battery which has been operating since Autumn 2022. Field Beauly would join Field Oldham and Field Gerrard's Cross (operational April 2024) as part of a nationwide network which, together, will help the UK reach net zero.

WORKING WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Our batteries will provide huge benefits to the UK, and we take great care to make sure this is not to the detriment of the communities that host them.

As a responsible developer and operator, listening to local communities matters to us, as it allows us to understand and respond to local issues, and ultimately build better battery sites.

We engage early with communities throughout the development process, oversee the construction on-site and we're responsible for the project once it's in operation. We're part of communities for the long-term.

WHY DO WE NEED BIG BATTERIES?

To reach net zero, increase energy security and help reduce energy bills, we need to store renewable energy and improve the electricity grid's stability and reliability.

Our batteries are designed to fill gaps in the UK's electricity supply by charging up when renewable energy is being produced (such as on windy or sunny days) and discharging energy back into the grid when needed (e.g. when the wind isn't blowing, the sun isn't shining, or we aren't able to import enough energy from elsewhere). This ensures plenty of energy is available for people to make their morning cuppa, even on a calm, overcast winter's day.

These batteries work a lot like the batteries you use at home, only instead of using our batteries to power a torch or TV remote, we operate large, 'grid scale' batteries. This means we can rely more on renewable energy and less on expensive fossil fuels to provide electricity to thousands of homes and businesses.

Batteries are also very good at keeping the grid stable, by maintaining a constant and predictable supply of electricity to the grid, at the right frequency.

Changes in the supply and demand of electricity on the network create changes in this electrical frequency. This needs to be closely monitored, as if frequency is too high or too low, the network cannot operate properly. Field Beauly will help to keep this frequency at the right level, which in turn helps reduce the chances of network disruptions or blackouts.

STORING ENERGY IN THE HIGHLANDS

Scotland has set a target to become net zero by 2045, with a reduction in greenhouse gases of 90% by 2040*. Batteries enable much greater use of renewable energy, and therefore play an important role in helping Scotland reach net zero.

Batteries are a vital part of how we can make the most of renewable energy, which is why we believe that they can play a part in Highland Council's "Future Highland" Programme. The Highland Council stated in their Net Zero Strategy (2023) that:

"The Council's "Future Highland" Programme sets out a vision of Highland, a centre for global renewable energy, by capitalising on our areas of immense natural capital to deliver alternative energy solutions including developing solar, hydrogen, Hydro, wind and wave solutions."

*https://www.gov.scot/policies/climate-change/

FIELD BEAULY

Field Beauly will be connected via underground cable to the existing Beauly Substation. Detailed design work for the cable route of roughly 2km will be completed by SSE in the coming months. This will be consented and constructed by SSE separately from the Field Beauly project.

We'll also provide landscaping to reduce visual impacts and biodiversity enhancements so that we are having a positive ecological effect on the land we use.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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Large batteries are safe facilities. We work hard throughout site design, construction and into operation to ensure the safety of our sites. We would only use batteries that have best-in-class fire safety performance and will be compliant with all relevant fire safety standards.

The batteries will be constantly monitored and in the unlikely event that a fire does occur, the facility will employ automatic fire detection and suppression systems.

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To keep our sites secure, all our projects include perimeter fencing and gated access. During operation, our sites are unmanned and CCTV is used to monitor activities.

FIELD BEAULY
Battery storage

FEEDBACK FORM

To return your completed feedback form please tear it from the brochure and pop it in the post by **Friday 30th August 2024**. Alternatively, you can return your form via email to **feedback@fieldbeauly.co.uk**.

Title: Name:
Address: Postcode:
Email: Telephone:

1. Has this brochure been helpful in understanding our proposal? ❑ Yes ❑ No ❑ Not sure

2. With regards to the proposals you have read about within this leaflet, are you:
❑ In favour ❑ In objection ❑ Of no opinion

3. Please use this space to provide any comments on the proposal. We would welcome your feedback on all aspects of the emerging design shown in the brochure.

Please provide your contact details if you wish to get a response. Any information provided will only be used for the purpose of the planning application to the Local Planning Authority and will not be disclosed with any third parties. Your contact details will not be listed on the planning application documentation. Field is managing this public consultation process in collaboration with Alpaca Communications.

Instructions
To return your feedback form, please fold and put it in the post to us.
If you'd like more space to share your thoughts, send us an email, or just write your comments down and pop them in an envelope with 'FREEPOST ALPACA COMMUNICATIONS LIMITED' written on the front. You don't need any further address or stamp.
Any queries or problems? Get in touch via feedback@alpacacommunications.com.

FOLD HERE

Freepost
ALPACA COMMUNICATIONS LIMITED

INDICATIVE TIMELINE

Early 2024	28 May 2024	21 August 2024	Autumn 2024	Early 2025	2027 onwards
Early environmental assessments and design work	Public consultation event 1	Public consultation event 2	Submission of planning application	Determination of planning application	Construction and operation

JOIN US AT OUR PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENTS

We're on a mission to build the renewable energy infrastructure needed to reach net zero, starting with battery storage. Your feedback can help us to improve our proposals for Field Beauly.

For further information, please visit our website at **www.fieldbeauly.co.uk**.

We're holding two public consultation events on:

Tuesday 28th May 2024 from 2pm-7pm
Kirkhill Community Centre, St Mary's Rd, Kirkhill, Inverness IV5 7NX

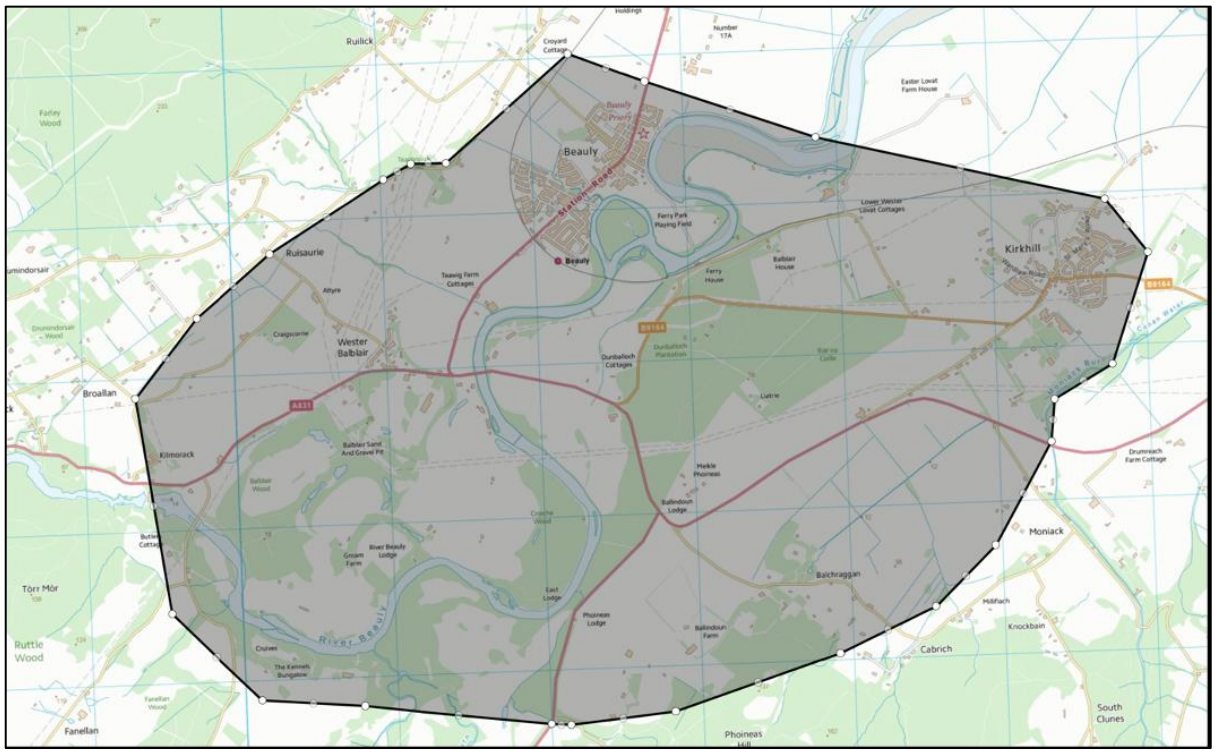
Wednesday 21st August 2024 from 2pm-7pm
Phipps Hall, Station Road, Beauly, IV4 7EH

You can submit your feedback to us or write to us via:

Email: **feedback@fieldbeauly.co.uk**

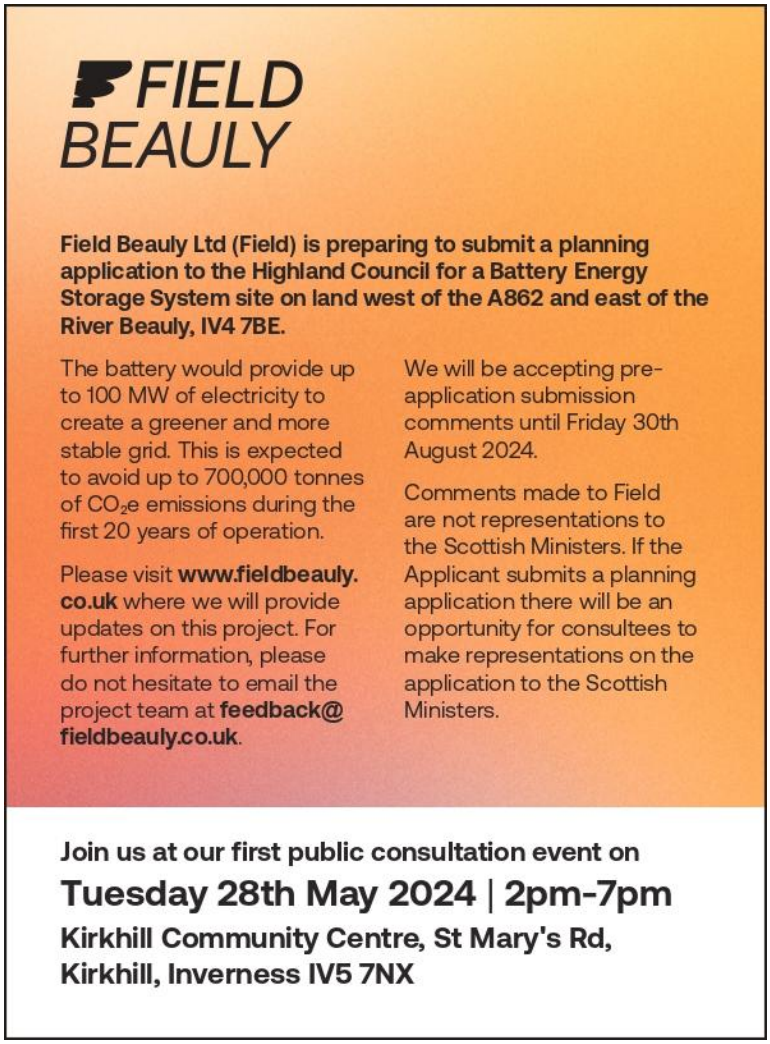
Freepost: **Alpaca Communications Ltd**

Appendix 5: Local resident invite brochure distribution area



The brochure for the public consultation event was sent out on 21st May 2024 to 1,464 addresses.

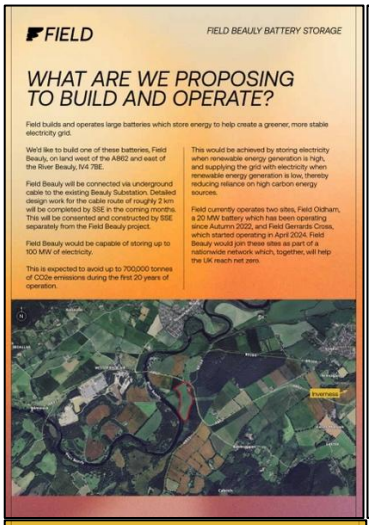
Appendix 6: Public consultation event adverts



The advert above was posted in the *Inverness Courier* on the 21st May 2024.

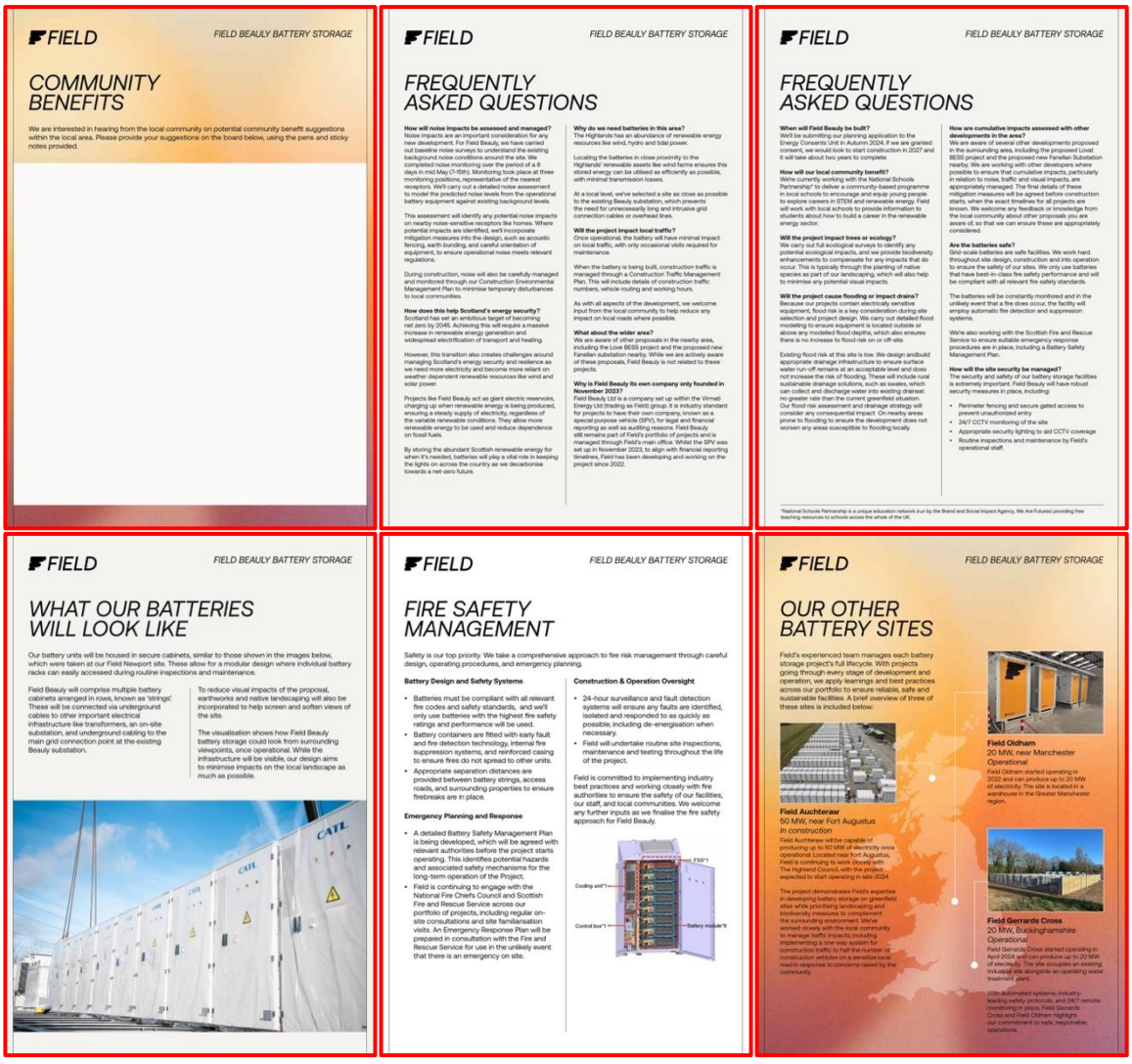
The advert above was posted in the *Inverness Courier* on the 15th August 2024**.**

Appendix 7: First consultation event boards



Appendix 8: Second consultation event boards

Additional boards produced for the second consultation event have been outlined in red.



FIELD

FIELD BEAULY BATTERY STORAGE

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

We are interested in hearing from the local community on potential community benefit suggestions within the local area. Please provide your suggestions on the board below, using the pens and sticky notes provided.

FIELD

FIELD BEAULY BATTERY STORAGE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How will noise impacts be assessed and managed?
Noise impacts are an important consideration for any new development. For Field Beauly, we have carried out baseline noise surveys to understand the existing background noise conditions around the site. We completed noise monitoring over the period of a 8 days in mid May (7-15th). Monitoring took place at three monitoring positions, representative of the nearest receptors. We'll carry out a detailed noise assessment to model the predicted noise levels from the operational battery equipment against existing background levels.

This assessment will identify any potential noise impacts on nearby noise-sensitive receptors like homes. Where potential impacts are identified, we'll incorporate mitigation measures into the design, such as acoustic fencing, earth bunding, and careful orientation of equipment, to ensure operational noise meets relevant regulations.

During construction, noise will also be carefully managed and monitored through our Construction Environmental Management Plan to minimise temporary disturbances to local communities.

How does this help Scotland's energy security?
Scotland has set an ambitious target of becoming net zero by 2045. Achieving this will require a massive increase in renewable energy generation and widespread electrification of transport and heating.

However, this transition also creates challenges around managing Scotland's energy security and resilience as we need more electricity and become more reliant on weather dependent renewable resources like wind and solar power.

Projects like Field Beauly act as giant electric reservoirs, charging up when renewable energy is being produced, ensuring a steady supply of electricity, regardless of the variable renewable conditions. They allow more renewable energy to be used and reduce dependence on fossil fuels.

By storing the abundant Scottish renewable energy for when it's needed, batteries will play a vital role in keeping the lights on across the country as we decarbonise towards a net-zero future.

Why do we need batteries in this area?
The Highlands has an abundance of renewable energy resources like wind, hydro and tidal power.

Locating the batteries in close proximity to the Highlands' renewable assets like wind farms ensures this stored energy can be utilised as efficiently as possible, with minimal transmission losses.

At a local level, we've selected a site as close as possible to the existing Beauly substation, which prevents the need for unnecessarily long and intrusive grid connection cables or overhead lines.

Will the project impact local traffic?
Once operational, the battery will have minimal impact on local traffic, with only occasional visits required for maintenance.

When the battery is being built, construction traffic is managed through a Construction Traffic Management Plan. This will include details of construction traffic numbers, vehicle routing and working hours.

As with all aspects of the development, we welcome input from the local community to help reduce any impact on local roads where possible.

What about the wider area?
We are aware of other proposals in the nearby area, including the Love BESS project and the proposed new Fanellan substation nearby. While we are actively aware of these proposals, Field Beauly is not related to these projects.

Why is Field Beauly its own company only founded in November 2023?
Field Beauly Ltd is a company set up within the Virmati Energy Ltd (trading as Field) group. It is industry standard for projects to have their own company, known as a special purpose vehicle (SPV), for legal and financial reporting as well as auditing reasons. Field Beauly still remains part of Field's portfolio of projects and is managed through Field's main office. Whilst the SPV was set up in November 2023, to align with financial reporting timelines, Field has been developing and working on the project since 2022.

FIELD

FIELD BEAULY BATTERY STORAGE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When will Field Beauly be built?
We'll be submitting our planning application to the Energy Consents Unit in Autumn 2024. If we are granted consent, we would look to start construction in 2027 and it will take about two years to complete.

How will our local community benefit?
We're currently working with the National Schools Partnership* to deliver a community-based programme in local schools to encourage and equip young people to explore careers in STEM and renewable energy. Field will work with local schools to provide information to students about how to build a career in the renewable energy sector.

Will the project impact trees or ecology?
We carry out full ecological surveys to identify any potential ecological impacts, and we provide biodiversity enhancements to compensate for any impacts that do occur. This is typically through the planting of native species as part of our landscaping, which will also help to minimise any potential visual impacts.

Will the project cause flooding or impact drains?
Because our projects contain electrically sensitive equipment, flood risk is a key consideration during site selection and project design. We carry out detailed flood modelling to ensure equipment is located outside or above any modelled flood depths, which also ensures there is no increase to flood risk on or off-site.

Existing flood risk at this site is low. We design andbuild appropriate drainage infrastructure to ensure surface water run-off remains at an acceptable level and does not increase the risk of flooding. These will include rural sustainable drainage solutions, such as swales, which can collect and discharge water into existing drainsat no greater rate than the current greenfield situation. Our flood risk assessment and drainage strategy will consider any consequential impact. On nearby areas prone to flooding to ensure the development does not worsen any areas susceptible to flooding locally.

How are cumulative impacts assessed with other developments in the area?
We are aware of several other developments proposed in the surrounding area, including the proposed Lovat BESS project and the proposed new Fanellan Substation nearby. We are working with other developers where possible to ensure that cumulative impacts, particularly in relation to noise, traffic and visual impacts, are appropriately managed. The final details of these mitigation measures will be agreed before construction starts, when the exact timelines for all projects are known. We welcome any feedback or knowledge from the local community about other proposals you are aware of, so that we can ensure these are appropriately considered.

Are the batteries safe?
Grid-scale batteries are safe facilities. We work hard throughout site design, construction and into operation to ensure the safety of our sites. We only use batteries that have best-in-class fire safety performance and will be compliant with all relevant fire safety standards.

The batteries will be constantly monitored and in the unlikely event that a fire does occur, the facility will employ automatic fire detection and suppression systems.

We're also working with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to ensure suitable emergency response procedures are in place, including a Battery Safety Management Plan.

How will the site security be managed?
The security and safety of our battery storage facilities is extremely important. Field Beauly will have robust security measures in place, including:

- Perimeter fencing and secure gated access to prevent unauthorized entry
- 24/7 CCTV monitoring of the site
- Appropriate security lighting to aid CCTV coverage
- Routine inspections and maintenance by Field's operational staff.

*National Schools Partnership is a unique education network (run by the Brand and Social Impact Agency, We Are Futures) providing free teaching resources to schools across the whole of the UK.

FIELD

FIELD BEAULY BATTERY STORAGE

WHAT OUR BATTERIES WILL LOOK LIKE

Our battery units will be housed in secure cabinets, similar to those shown in the images below, which were taken at our Field Newport site. These allow for a modular design where individual battery racks can easily accessed during routine inspections and maintenance.

Field Beauly will comprise multiple battery cabinets arranged in rows, known as 'strings'. These will be connected via underground cables to other important electrical infrastructure like transformers, an on-site substation, and underground cabling to the main grid connection point at the existing Beauly substation.

To reduce visual impacts of the proposal, earthworks and native landscaping will also be incorporated to help screen and soften views of the site.

The visualisation shows how Field Beauly battery storage could look from surrounding viewpoints, once operational. While the infrastructure will be visible, our design aims to minimise impacts on the local landscape as much as possible.

FIELD

FIELD BEAULY BATTERY STORAGE

FIRE SAFETY MANAGEMENT

Safety is our top priority. We take a comprehensive approach to fire risk management through careful design, operating procedures, and emergency planning.

Battery Design and Safety Systems

- Batteries must be compliant with all relevant fire codes and safety standards, and we'll only use batteries with the highest fire safety ratings and performance will be used.
- Battery containers are fitted with early fault and fire detection technology, internal fire suppression systems, and reinforced casing to ensure fires do not spread to other units.
- Appropriate separation distances are provided between battery strings, access roads, and surrounding properties to ensure firebreaks are in place.

Emergency Planning and Response

- A detailed Battery Safety Management Plan is being developed, which will be agreed with relevant authorities before the project starts operating. This identifies potential hazards and associated safety mechanisms for the long-term operation of the Project.
- Field is continuing to engage with the National Fire Chiefs Council and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service across our portfolio of projects, including regular on-site consultations and site familiarisation visits. An Emergency Response Plan will be prepared in consultation with the Fire and Rescue Service for use in the unlikely event that there is an emergency on site.

Construction & Operation Oversight

- 24-hour surveillance and fault detection systems will ensure any faults are identified, isolated and responded to as quickly as possible, including de-energisation when necessary.
- Field will undertake routine site inspections, maintenance and testing throughout the life of the project.

Field is committed to implementing industry best practices and working closely with fire authorities to ensure the safety of our facilities, our staff, and local communities. We welcome any further inputs as we finalise the fire safety approach for Field Beauly.

FIELD

FIELD BEAULY BATTERY STORAGE

OUR OTHER BATTERY SITES

Field's experienced team manages each battery storage project's full lifecycle. With projects going through every stage of development and operation, we apply learnings and best practices across our portfolio to ensure reliable, safe and sustainable facilities. A brief overview of three of these sites is included below:

Field Auchterawe
50 MW, near Fort Augustus
In construction

Field Auchterawe will be capable of producing up to 50 MW of electricity once operational. Located near Fort Augustus, Field is continuing to work closely with The Highland Council, with the project expected to start operating in late 2024.

The project demonstrates Field's expertise in developing battery storage on greenfield sites while prioritising landscaping and biodiversity measures to complement the surrounding environment. We've worked closely with the local community to manage traffic impacts, including implementing a one-way system for construction traffic to half the number of construction vehicles on a sensitive local road in response to concerns raised by the community.

Field Oldham
20 MW, near Manchester
Operational

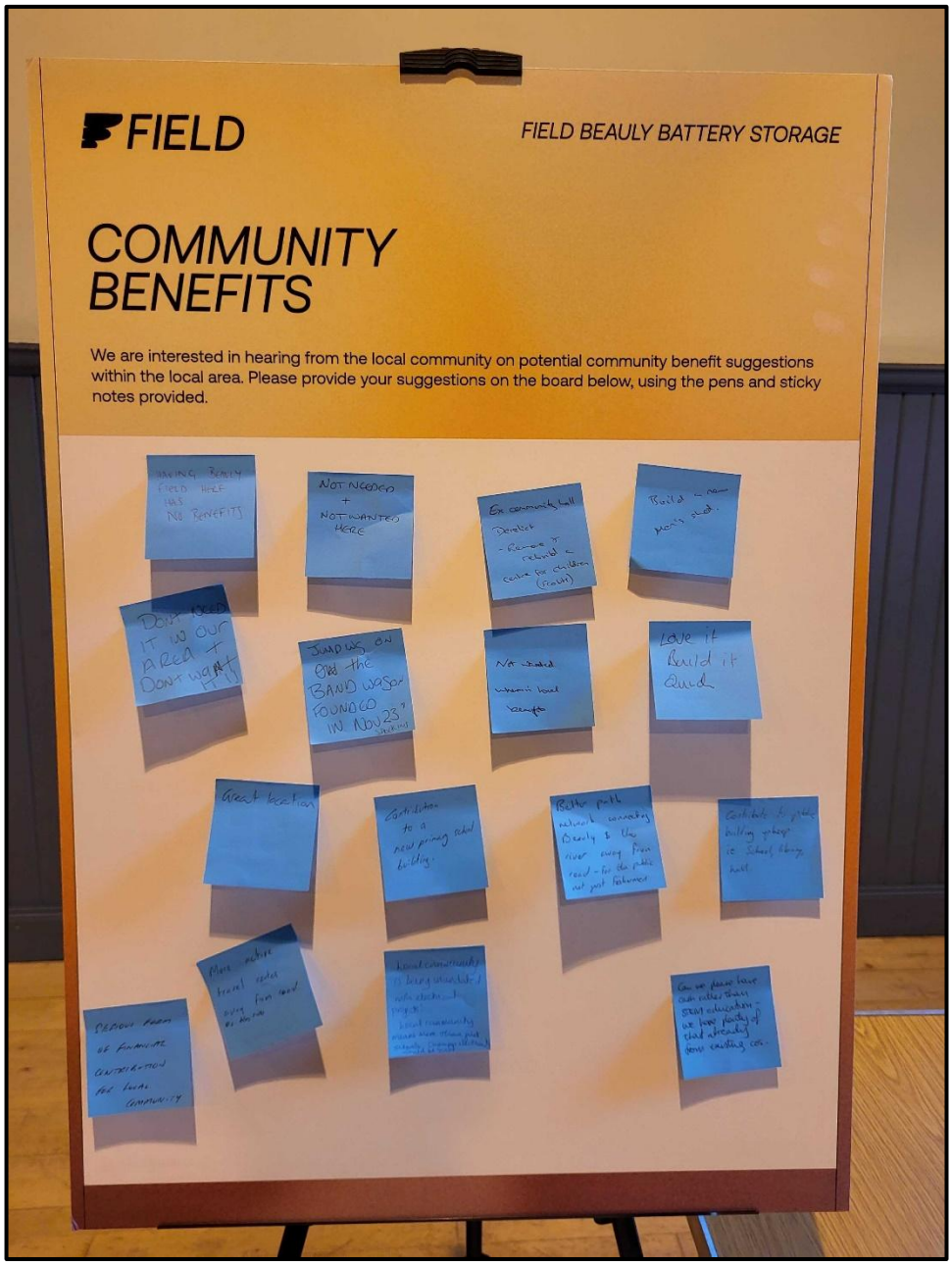
Field Oldham started operating in 2022 and can produce up to 20 MW of electricity. The site is located in a warehouse in the Greater Manchester region.

Field Gerrards Cross
20 MW, Buckinghamshire
Operational

Field Gerrards Cross started operating in April 2024 and can produce up to 20 MW of electricity. The site occupies an existing industrial site alongside an operating water treatment plant.

With automated systems, industry-leading safety protocols, and 24/7 remote monitoring in place, Field Gerrards Cross and Field Oldham highlight our commitment to safe, responsible operations.

Appendix 9: Community benefits suggestions



Comments left on the community benefits suggestion board:
Serious form of financial contribution for local community
More active travel routes away from road e.g. along river
Great location
DON'T NEED IT IN OUR AREA + DON'T WANT IT!!
Having Beauly Field here has no benefits
Not needed + not wanted here
Jumping on the bandwagon founded in Nov 23 shocking
Contribution to a new primary school building
Local community is being inundated with electrical projects! Local community means more than just schools.
Cheaper electricity would be good.
Ex community hall derelict; remove and rebuild a centre for children (scouts)

Not wanted where is local benefit
Better path network connecting Beauly and the river away from road - for the public not just fishermen
Love it build it quick
Build a new men's shed
Contribute to public building upkeep ie school, library, hall
Can we please have cash rather than STEM education - we have plenty of that already from existing cos.

Appendix 10: Comments received via feedback form and Applicant's response

COMMENTS RECEIVED	FIELD'S RESPONSE
Whilst I am very much in favour of greener energy and protecting the environment, enough is enough. You are saturating this area with your infrastructure which is detrimental to our environment. Build it somewhere else.	**Battery storage in the Highlands** Scotland has set a target to become net zero by 2045. Batteries enable much greater use of renewable energy, and therefore play an important role in helping Scotland reach net zero. Batteries are a vital part of how we can make the most of renewable energy, which is why they are integral to the Highland Council's "Future Highland" Programme. Field are aware of other developments being proposed in the Beauly area and has assessed any potential cumulative impacts of these as part of the planning application.
Good Day, I refer to your recent Alpaca Communications Ltd Freepost booklet, announcing meetings to come in May and August in Kiltarlity and Beauly. What a pity it is that your stated mission is to build infrastructure to reach an imaginary ""net zero"" rather than simply to reach ""people that require electricity"". ""Net zero"" is a concept pushed by the descendants of the same alarmists that preached about the hole in the ozone layer about 40 years ago - a hole (now gone) that was caused by natural fluctuations and not by CFC's. Man-made global warming, similarly, does not fit the facts as well as do naturally occurring cycles of temperature change. I am all for true scientific innovation to keep us warm in Scotland through our winters, but regrettably, much of your funding comes from the Green Agenda that is determined to make us all depend on energy sources unreliable at our latitude -- and hence liable to be cold. The sooner you ditch the ""Net Zero"" illusion as a mission and focus on the Scottish public as the reality that you serve, the better. With respect,	**Battery storage in the Highlands** Scotland has set a target to become net zero by 2045. Batteries enable much greater use of renewable energy, and therefore play an important role in helping Scotland reach net zero. Batteries are a vital part of how we can make the most of renewable energy, which is why they are integral to the Highland Council's "Future Highland" Programme.
Too close to river, completely unsuitable Prime farm land, completely unsuitable	**Battery safety** Field takes a comprehensive approach to fire risk management through careful design, operating procedures, and emergency planning. Field has prepared an Outline Battery Safety Management Plan (OBSMP) to accompany the planning application. The OBSMP provides full details on Field's approach to battery safety management, and provides details of how any fire water will be

	contained in the case of an incident to prevent any contamination of the river. A flood risk assessment and drainage strategy have also been completed for the Proposed Development which take into consideration the proximity of the site to the River Beauly. Additionally, as part of the application documents, an Agricultural Land Quality Assessment and Alternative Site Assessment have been undertaken to review the proposed site location.
RI Crudon are a renewable and metalwork business board in Inverness	The applicant thanks the respondent for their feedback. If the proposal receives planning consent the Applicant will engage with contractors through a procurement process.
Straight to the point... do not want / or require this. There should be a moritorium on all developments and a "grown-up" discussion (in the Scottish parl.) on the entire subject, and its need to Scotland. This industry, as it stands, will ruin/trash the Highlands greatest asset... its scenery and its communities.	**Battery storage in the Highlands** Scotland has set a target to become net zero by 2045. Batteries enable much greater use of renewable energy, and therefore play an important role in helping Scotland reach net zero. Batteries are a vital part of how we can make the most of renewable energy, which is why they are integral to the Highland Council's "Future Highland" Programme. **Visual Impact** Field has carefully considered potential visual impact. The proposal also includes a Landscaping Plan to demonstrate how the development will be effectively screened. The Landscaping Plan has been appropriately designed to use native woodland and heathland species to complement the existing ecological baseline. This includes the creation and retention of wet heathland habitats and native scrub woodland onsite, ultimately resulting in a biodiversity enhancement of greater than 10% for the Proposed Development.
I am strongly against this proposal. Battery stores are potentially highly dangerous and should never be anywhere near power stations or where people live, farmland etc	**Battery Safety** Field takes a comprehensive approach to fire risk management through careful design, operating procedures, and emergency planning. Field is an industry leader in relation to fire safety. Workstreams undertaken by Field in relation to BESS fire safety include: sitting on government working groups to help define BESS fire safety standards, working closely with suppliers to understand the

	latest BESS safety features and fire safety testing and engaging with local fire and rescue services. Field has prepared an Outline Battery Safety Management Plan (OBSMP) to accompany the planning application. The OBSMP provides full details on Field's approach to battery safety management, including identifying all potential safety risks that may arise from the Proposed Development as well as the proposed measures in place to avoid and mitigate risks. These include consideration of risks relating to, but not limited to, fire events, site security and emergency access.
I have several concerns with the proposal; including, impact to wildlife, impact to the health & lifestyles of local residents, depreciation of property. Increased traffic into the area causing more damage to our already crumbling road infrastructure. yet more visual impact to a beautiful area. we are gradually becoming fenced in by these 'necessary advances' what benefit do we as locals get?	**Visual Impact** Field has carefully considered potential visual impact. The proposal also includes a Landscaping Plan to demonstrate how the development will be effectively screened. The Landscaping Plan has been appropriately designed to use native woodland and heathland species to complement the existing ecological baseline. This includes the creation and retention of wet heathland habitats and native scrub woodland onsite, ultimately resulting in a biodiversity net gain of greater than 10% for the Proposed Development.
all the very best for the future work you do.	The applicant thanks the respondent for their feedback.
More industrialisation of our land = with object of making money " community benefits" are absolute nonsense.	**Battery storage in the Highlands** Scotland has set a target to become net zero by 2045. Batteries enable much greater use of renewable energy, and therefore play an important role in helping Scotland reach net zero. Batteries are a vital part of how we can make the most of renewable energy, which is why they are integral to the Highland Council's "Future Highland" Programme.
ABSOLUTELY in favour! Good location, not very visible from Road!	The applicant thanks the respondent for their feedback.
Communities B4 Power companies !	The applicant thanks the respondent for their feedback.
1. why in this arable field? 2. should be situated near SSE substation? 3. provision for battery leakage into river Beauly!	**Battery storage in the Highlands** Scotland has set a target to become net zero by 2045. Batteries enable much greater use of

4. access - difficult for emergency vehicles - blind turn-off from main road	renewable energy, and therefore play an important role in helping Scotland reach net zero. Batteries are a vital part of how we can make the most of renewable energy, which is why they are integral to the Highland Council's "Future Highland" Programme. **Ecological surveys and biodiversity** We have conducted full ecological surveys to identify any potential ecological impacts. The Proposed Development has been designed to utilise existing landform and commercial forestry along the southern boundaries of the Site, to minimise views of the Proposed Development from sensitive landscape and visual receptors within the surrounding area. In addition to this, further screening is included within the submitted Landscaping Plan, to further minimise adverse landscape and visual impacts. A robust Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVA) has been undertaken to ensure the Proposed Development is compliant with national and local planning policy in relation to landscape and visual impacts. The Landscaping Plan has been appropriately designed to use native woodland and heathland species to complement the existing ecological baseline. This includes the creation and retention of wet heathland habitats and native scrub woodland onsite, ultimately resulting in a biodiversity net gain of greater than 10% for the Proposed Development. **Battery safety** Field takes a comprehensive approach to fire risk management through careful design, operating procedures, and emergency planning. Field has prepared an Outline Battery Safety Management Plan (OBSMP) to accompany the planning application. The OBSMP provides full details on Field's approach to battery safety management, and provides details of how any fire water will be contained in the case of an incident to prevent any contamination of the river. A flood risk assessment and drainage strategy have also been completed for the Proposed Development which take into consideration the proximity of the site to the River Beauly.
Many local objections appear to be ignored on the variety of schemes driving towards 'green' energy. Destroys local countryside to help gaps in supply in	**Battery storage in the Highlands** Scotland has set a target to become net zero by 2045. Batteries enable much greater use of

areas outwith the local area - surely an unfair and inconsiderate approach by those living in high density populations imposing their wishes on smaller, more remote communities.	renewable energy, and therefore play an important role in helping Scotland reach net zero. Batteries are a vital part of how we can make the most of renewable energy, which is why they are integral to the Highland Council's "Future Highland" Programme. **Ecological surveys and biodiversity** We have conducted full ecological surveys to identify any potential ecological impacts. The Proposed Development has been designed to utilise existing landform and commercial forestry along the southern boundaries of the Site, to minimise views of the Proposed Development from sensitive landscape and visual receptors within the surrounding area. In addition to this, further screening is included within the submitted Landscaping Plan, to further minimise adverse landscape and visual impacts. A robust Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVA) has been undertaken to ensure the Proposed Development is compliant with national and local planning policy in relation to landscape and visual impacts. The Landscaping Plan has been appropriately designed to use native woodland and heathland species to complement the existing ecological baseline. This includes the creation and retention of wet heathland habitats and native scrub woodland onsite, ultimately resulting in a biodiversity net gain of greater than 10% for the Proposed Development.
The electric noise is of great concern, there is already a power station in Beauly this would increase the negative impact. Battery storage should be moved further away from residential areas.	**Noise Impact** The main noise associated with batteries are the cooling fans, which keep the batteries from overheating. This noise level is low and the batteries are not expected to be audible beyond the site boundary. Noise is measured against existing background noise levels and noise levels are required to meet the relevant British Standards and World Health Organisation Noise Guidelines. The Beauly BESS proposals are sited approximately 900m south of Beauly. Field conducts thorough noise evaluations for each site and implements various noise mitigation measures in our project plans. These measures, such as acoustic fencing, ensure that noise impacts are acceptable at nearby sensitive locations.
Not wanted here Not needed here	**Battery storage in the Highlands**

Not safe here	Scotland has set a target to become net zero by 2045. Batteries enable much greater use of renewable energy, and therefore play an important role in helping Scotland reach net zero. Batteries are a vital part of how we can make the most of renewable energy, which is why they are integral to the Highland Council's "Future Highland" Programme. **Battery safety** Field takes a comprehensive approach to fire risk management through careful design, operating procedures, and emergency planning. Field is an industry leader in relation to fire safety. Workstreams undertaken by Field in relation to BESS fire safety include: sitting on government working groups to help define BESS fire safety standards, working closely with suppliers to understand the latest BESS safety features and fire safety testing and engaging with local fire and rescue services. Field has prepared an Outline Battery Safety Management Plan (OBSMP) to accompany the planning application. The OBSMP provides full details on Field's approach to battery safety management, including identifying all potential safety risks that may arise from the Proposed Development as well as the proposed measures in place to avoid and mitigate risks. These include consideration of risks relating to, but not limited to, fire events, site security and emergency access.
No!	The applicant thanks the respondent for their feedback.
Hello, I attended the consultation at Phipps Hall today and was asked to feed this back in an email or via the feedback form. We live on Orchard Park in Beauly. The houses on our road and also along the main road through Beauly shake when heavy traffic travels along the main road. When we had road works on the main road last year which caused the houses to shake more, cracks appeared on some houses. Traffic calming measures outside Phipps Hall have had to be removed due to the increased vibration it caused to the nearby houses. We're concerned that any increased heavy traffic caused by Field Beauly and other developments (SSEN transmission line) will cause damage to our house. Could this please be taken into consideration. I appreciate Field Beauly isn't the only development planned for the area but I feel some	The applicant thanks the respondent for their feedback. **Construction Traffic** Once operational, the battery will have minimal impact on local traffic, with only occasional visits required for maintenance. When the battery is being built, construction traffic is managed through a Construction Traffic Management Plan. This will include details of construction traffic numbers, vehicle routing and working hours.

amount of joined up thinking is needed so baseline structural assessments of properties can be made to ensure any damage caused during the time when there is increased heavy traffic travelling through Beauly can be recorded.	Field have noted your concern with our Transport consultants. As with all aspects of the development, we welcome input from the local community to help reduce any impact on local roads where possible.
Brochure was helpful in understanding the proposal but a wee niggle regarding solar and overcast winter's day. Our issue this far north is more the "dark nights" ie the shortness of the days in winter contrasted with the long, long days in summer. In general I feel probably in favour if for use in Scotland as opposed to export to the South of the U.K. Comment one must be to praise Emma Devlin who was patient and explained the proposal well and was not just reading the display sheets. She seemed well briefed about the area but less aware of the tsunami of infrastructure being proposed by SSEN for the immediate area around Beauly. My major caveat is regarding "community benefit". We were being asked to provide ideas of what that should be without any idea of what budget was available. There is a distinct danger of allocation of "Community Benefits" which have an on cost eg upkeep, repair, insurance etc. Given that this project is due to run for some 20 or so years this is obviously something which needs to be revisited frequently or to be an ongoing benefit for all members of the community. An obvious ongoing benefit for all locals would be a reduction of fuel price or perhaps provision of company shares ie part ownership. Alternatively I would suggest an annual allocation of a percentage of the profit from the endeavour. It is basically impossible to suggest community benefits in a budget vacuum. I have to say that this was the worst aspect of the presentation and appeared to be a last minute addition. A blank board with some post-its to stick suggestions to it kinda doesn't fulfil the brief. Cui bono is the obvious question and the answer as it stands is Field. The benefits being espoused by the displays and your booklet are not directly impacting on the population of the local area but are generic.	**Community Benefits** Field are currently working with the National Schools Partnership, a unique education network (run by the Brand and Social Impact Agency, We Are Futures) providing free teaching resources to schools across the whole of the UK. Field and the National Schools Partnership are working together to deliver a community-based programme in local schools to help educate students about the work that Field is undertaking in renewable energy and energy storage, as well as encouraging and equipping young people to explore careers in STEM and renewable energy. The Field team will work with local schools to provide information to students about how to build a career in the renewable energy sector. **Battery storage in the Highlands** Scotland has set a target to become net zero by 2045. Batteries enable much greater use of renewable energy, and therefore play an important role in helping Scotland reach net zero. Batteries are a vital part of how we can make the most of renewable energy, which is why they are integral to the Highland Council's "Future Highland" Programme.